



Let the juice loose.

Page 19



Leader of the packs.

Page 18



Full service for mind and body.

Page 21

View from the east:
Asia Art Now.
Page 12



Women abuse fertility drugs to bypass family planning law

Page 3



Bank truck bandit sent back to Taiwan

Li Hanyang, wanted by Taiwan police for robbing an armored car, and his younger brother, Li Jinzan, were sent back to the island by mainland police yesterday. Li Hanyang, who worked as a driver for bank deliveries in Taipei, stole 56 million New Taiwan dollars (US\$1.75 million) was arrested in Yunnan province on January 9.

Xinhua Photo

Migrant mothers, children get enhanced health service

Page 2

Shanxi journalist beaten to death

Page 3

Co-ops to solve housing crunch

Page 4

Controversy over prostitution notice

Page 7

SIX NATIONS

ENGLAND
FRANCE IRELAND SCOTLAND
ITALY WALES

Pavilion

Local Beer RMB20.00

Opening times 10am-late
Phone+8610 6507 2617
Fax+8610 6415 5242

www.pavillionbeijing.com
info@pavillionbeijing.com

China tightens family planning policy

By Qiu Jiaoning

China plans to enhance its existing family planning policy to keep its population at 1.36 billion and maintain a fertility rate of 1.8 percent by the end of 2010. This is to meet quantitative population objectives, Zhang Weiqing, minister of the National Population and Family Planning Commission (NPFPC), said on Tuesday.

Not limited to single child

China's family planning policy is not 'one-child policy,' meaning not all Chinese couples are limited to bearing only one child, Wang Guoqiang, vice director of NPFPC, said. In fact, Wang explained, only 35.9 percent of the population has been strictly limited to having one child.

In 19 provinces, rural couples have been allowed two children if their first was a girl, and such families account for 53 percent of the population, Wang said. In five provinces, including Hainan and Yunnan, all rural parents are allowed to have two children.

In addition, couples from one-child families have also been allowed two children. The minister explained that the different policies stem from China's unbalanced economic and social development.

China is the world's most populous nation with approximately 1.3 billion people, or 20 percent of the global total. The country's population is expected to reach 1.5 billion in 2033, posing huge challenges to the country's economy and environment.

China has seen nearly 100 million children born since the family planning policy was first introduced in the 1970s.

Danger of gender imbalance

Gender imbalance, said Zhang, is currently a very serious challenge for China and should be resolved through education campaigns, punishments for sex-selective abortions and rewards for parents who have girls.

"Resolving the problem will be difficult. We expect to take between 10 and 15 years to normalize the gender imbalance in the Chinese population," Zhang said.

In 2005, 118 baby boys were born for every 100 girls, and the imbalance has reached as high as 130 boys for every 100 girls in areas like Guangdong province, revealed

the government's Research of China's National Strategy for Population Development.

Based on the current situation, China is expected to have up to 30 million men of marrying age without partners in 2020.

The minister said the Chinese government will make every effort to protect women and baby girls and crack down on illegal gender selection tests and sex-selective abortions, which was already banned last year.

Moreover, the country is carrying out a pilot plan in some regions that will provide retirement pensions for rural parents over 60 years old who have only one child or two girls. Each parent can get as much as 600 yuan per month.

GDP surged to 10.7 percent in 2006

By Qiu Jiaoning

China's gross domestic product (GDP) for the year 2006 was 20.94 trillion yuan or 10.7 percent, 0.3 percent higher than that of the previous year, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) announced at a news conference this Thursday.

The value added in primary industry was 2.47 trillion yuan, up by 5 percent; that in secondary industry was 10.2 trillion yuan, up by 12.5 percent; and that in the tertiary industry was 8.27 trillion yuan, up 10.3 percent, said NBS commissioner Xie Fuzhan.

The total volume of imports and exports for the whole year reached US\$1.76 trillion, a year-on-year growth of 23.8 percent. Of this total, the value of exports was US\$969.1 billion and the value of imports was US\$791.6 billion, a trade surplus of US\$177.5 billion.

"Foreign trade maintained fast growth with the increase of foreign direct investment," Xie said. Foreign direct investment actually used in 2006 was US\$60.3 billion, an increase of 4.5 percent. Year-end foreign exchange reserves of China reached US\$1.07 trillion.

"New employment in urban areas for the whole year was 11.84 million people, which recorded a big increase," Xie said. The registered urban unemployment rate at the end of 2006 was 4.1 percent, 0.1 percentage point lower than the previous year.

In 2006, the per capita disposable income of urban populations was 11,759 yuan, a year-on-year growth of 12.1 percent. The per capita net income of rural populations was 3,587 yuan, a growth of 10.2 percent. By the end of 2006, the balance of savings deposits of households amounted to 16.16 trillion yuan.

Xie said that there are some outstanding problems in the current economic performance. Agriculture still has a weak basis, which leads to difficulties in the steady growth of grain production and in the continued growth of farmer's incomes.



CFP Photo

False fire alarm forces Singaporean aircraft landing

By Chu Meng

A Singapore Airlines passenger jet which made an emergency landing in Beijing shortly after take-off experienced only a false alarm, Xinhua learned late Wednesday.

The Boeing 777-200 passenger aircraft, which was carrying 227 passengers and 17 crew members, was en route from Beijing to Singapore, when an alarm sounded indicating a fire in its right engine.

It returned and landed safely at Beijing Capital International Airport. Engineers found no signs of fire, damage or excessively high temperatures after checking the engine, said a source with the airlines, who didn't give his name.

Migrant mothers and children get enhanced health service

By Huang Daoheng

The Ministry of Health, WHO and UNICEF have jointly funded a health plan for Beijing's migrant mothers and their children. The plan started its trial run in Chaoyang district on Tuesday.

According to a UNICEF maternal and child survival report released last week, while China is on-track for achieving a number of the UN's Millennium Development Goals, there remain serious concerns about the slowing down of progress. This is in part attributed to the

economic gap between urban and rural areas, especially the precarious situation of populations such as migrant workers.

Statistics show that nearly half of newborns in Beijing are from migrant families, and the mortality rate of migrant pregnant woman is three times that of registered residents.

In her statement, UNICEF Representative Dr Yin Yin Nwe emphasized, "Our challenge is to reach the most marginalized and vulnerable populations and ensure universal access to afford-

able and equitable health care."

To this end, the Beijing government, with technical and financial assistance from WHO and UNICEF, has activated the 'medical check automobile plan,' which aims to provide migrant mothers and children the same services rendered to Beijing residents.

The plan provides for automobiles to drive into local communities, giving free health services for migrant pregnant women, including regular health checks, blood tests and file maintenance.

Surveying and mapping by foreigners restricted

By Han Manman

China's Ministry of Land and Resources issued rules on Monday to restrict foreigners' surveying and mapping activities in the country.

According to the regulations, foreign organizations and individuals, who engage in surveying and mapping in China must obtain approval from the central government beforehand and work under supervision from local governments.

Foreigners must work together with a Chinese partner and their activities must not involve state secrets or jeopardize national security, the directive said.

The regulation forbids foreigners from conducting land surveys, aerial photography, mapping of administrative borderlines and the drawing of navigation maps.

The State Bureau of Survey and Mapping said foreigners who illegally survey, gather and publish geographical information on China will be punished severely. Chinese partners or translators will also be fined if they fail to stop illegal mapping activities.

The number of foreigners conducting surveying and mapping in China is on the rise and many field projects have been carried out illegally, which have threatened the security of the country, said the ministry, without mentioning how many such cases it had discovered.

The warning followed the case of two Japanese scholars who were fined a total of 80,000 yuan and deported for collecting materials and gathering the coordinates of an airport and water facilities in Xinjiang last year. It was feared the information they gathered could be put to military use.

More police needed

By Chen Shasha

Police officers are in short supply in China and recruitment should be increased, Wu Heping, spokesman for the Ministry of Public Security, said this Tuesday.

The country has 1.4 million police officers, accounting for 0.1 percent of the whole population, Wu said. However, in developed countries, the average rate is 35 police officers per ten thousand people.

"As a country with an average GDP of US\$1,000-3,000, more and more crime has been taking place in China. Thus, we need to recruit more police," Wu said. "Graduates from universities and workers in various areas will be encouraged to take positions in the public security sector."

The number of police academies, however, is to be cut down, converting some of these institutions into training centers.

Shanxi journalist beaten to death

By Huang Daoheng

Local police have arrested Hou Zhenrun, the owner of an unlicensed coal mine, and six others suspected of involvement in the death of a reporter who was killed while investigating illegal mining, an official from Shanxi province Public Security Bureau told a press conference Tuesday. Three suspects, however, still remain at large.

The reporter Lan Chengzhang worked for the *China Trade News*.

He and colleague Chang Hanwen were apparently assaulted by as many as 10 men while visiting a mine in Hunyuan County in the northern province of Shanxi on January 10. Lan subsequently died as a result of injuries sustained and Chang was also injured.

Lan's death drew the immediate response from Beijing authorities. President Hu Jintao has ordered a full investigation into the fatal beating of Lan.

Police say that Lan initially

attempted to extort money from the mine owner, offering not to report any illegal mining in return for a substantial payment.

On the morning of January 10, Lan asked his colleague Chang Hanwen to accompany him to a Hunyuan county coal mine. Neither of the two had full reporter's credentials. En route, Lan said to Chang, "Once we find the mine owner, all we have to do is show him our identification and he'll give us at least 1,000 yuan (US\$130)."

Lan and Cheng met Hou at the mine office at around 4pm, having made an appointment by telephone. Hou then instructed Wu Qiang, Zheng Wenping, and others to assault Lan and Chang. After the attack, Hou left 1,000 yuan apiece for Lan and Chang before leaving the scene with his accomplices.

The *China Trade News* writes on its web site that Lan and Chang were hired in late December last year. It only says they were 'employees,' not reporters.

Survey finds Chinese rate European, US companies highest

By Jackie Zhang

European and North American companies operating in China are evaluated highly by Chinese consumers and workers, ranking first and second in a survey of public attitudes by the Horizon Research Consultancy Group, the results of which were released last week.

The survey asked 2,239 members of the public, and 418 employees and 482 managers at international companies in seven Chinese cities who they thought were the most influential global enterprises in China in 2006.

US companies were praised for their public relations and management systems. Japanese companies enjoyed a good reputation for human resources management and leadership, but most respondents thought they needed to work to improve their corporate image and enterprise culture. The reputation of Korean companies declined this year compared to 2005. They were adjudged to have weak crisis management and to have not successfully established a corporate image.

Employees and managers at foreign enterprises were generally satisfied with management systems and competitiveness at their employers, whilst the general public were more interested in corporate image.

The survey found that Chinese people see foreign companies as part of Chinese society, and welcome the contribution they make to it and the responsible way they manage their local staff.



Fire at historic Shanghai church

A fire broke out early Wednesday morning at the New Tian'an Church, a Gothic structure built more than a century ago, which stands at the junction of Yuanmingyuan Road and South Suzhou Road in Shanghai.

CFP Photo

Emergency treatment for injured rare fish

By Qiu Jiaoning

A 200-kilogram, 3.35-meter-long Chinese Sturgeon, which was found with 27 wounds on its body, is being given emergency treatment by five fish experts in Shanghai this week, according to one of them, Liu Jianyi from the East China Sea Fisheries Research Institute.

Liu said that the fish was accidentally caught by a person fishing off Chongming Island this week. Injuries sustained almost killed the fish, which is listed as one of China's most endangered species and is under Class A state protection.

The fish has severe cuts on its head and tail and most of the protective mucous which normally covers its body has been badly damaged, like a human patient with severe extensive burns, according to Liu.

"Although it will be a tough task to save it, it is clinging to life now, but is not yet out of danger," Liu said. "We are giving it 24-hour emergency treatment and will carry out further tests once the sturgeon has regained strength."

The experts believe that the female sturgeon was weakened having just laid her eggs before she was caught. It is one of the biggest sturgeons captured in recent years. All the other sturgeon caught by fishermen in recent years were too badly injured to be saved.

The Chinese Sturgeon is thought to have lived at the same time as dinosaurs, and some regard it as a living fossil.

Women abusing fertility drugs to bypass family planning law

By Chu Meng

A new version of China's family planning regulations released by National Population and Family Planning Commission Tuesday morning showed no sign of abandoning the strict controls known popularly as the 'one-child policy', but increasing number of couples are attempting to circumvent the rules by taking fertility drugs that may result in multiple births.

Drugs lead to tragedy

For seven years, 34-year-old Song Hua in Beijing tried in vain to have a child. She at last succeeded in becoming pregnant with twins in May, 2005, after purchasing a fertility drug from a drug store in Fengtai District.

It later turned out the privately-run pharmacy was operating illegally. Song and her family were delighted at her pregnancy, and look forward to the arrival of twins in the lunar Year of Pig, but tragedy struck. Song Hua's two children were still-born.

A visibly upset Song told this reporter in an interview Tuesday, "It was a nightmare. A friend told me about a fertility drug that was supposed to help me produce more eggs."

It was some minutes before a weeping Song was able to continue with our interview. "In the seventh month of my pregnancy, I began to feel problems in my belly, I was short of breath and had dizzy spells. I



Pills should only be taken under medical supervision.

thought at the time these were likely quite common symptoms during pregnancy," she said.

Song felt unwell for the whole of December, when she showed signs of giving birth and taken to Beijing Shuili Hospital. After eight hours of agony in the delivery room, her twin sons were still-born in the early hours of New Year's Day. "I fainted when they told me the twins were dead," a still heartbroken Song told me.

Warnings

He Fangfang, head of gynecology and obstetrics at Beijing Union Hospital, who oversaw the first successful in-vitro fertilization at the hospital, said Tuesday, "It is hard to say for certain that Song's premature delivery and the babies' deaths are entirely due to her use of the drug, but I would say it was cer-

tainly a significant factor."

He said the main ingredient of the most fertility drug is clomiphene citrate, which encourages more than one egg to ripen in a woman's ovary at the same time. There has always been debate over how clomiphene citrate actually works, and whether it poses any danger to mother or child. "We never recommend or allow women with healthy ovaries to use fertility drugs. If they are to be used for a woman not producing eggs, it should be under strict supervision by a gynecologist."

Under national family planning regulations, couples in rural areas can have a second child if their first is a girl, but city dwellers like Song Hua will pay hefty fines if they have a second child and could be forced to abort. The rule is not applied in cases of multiple births, which has led to an increasing number of urban couples to attempt to exploit this loophole.

Song said, "Even though, I do not regret taking fertility drugs. If I got pregnant naturally I would only have been allowed one child under China's strict population policy."

Fertility drug use widespread

Qiao Jie, the director of Beijing University's Third Hospital reproductive health center said, "Some women take fertility drugs hoping to have more than one child but they are not aware of how dangerous this can be, both for the mother and their unborn children."

Brief news

Higher GDP per capita

The capital's gross domestic product (GDP) per capita hit some 50,000 yuan (US\$6,400), up 8.8 percent on that of 2005, the Beijing Municipal Bureau of Statistics announced Wednesday.

Smaller households

The average size of a household in the capital has shrunk from 3.89 members in 1982 to 2.71 members now, with Chaoyang, a district with many foreign residents, seeing the smallest average household size of 2.58 persons, according to a recent survey by the Beijing Statistics Bureau.

Smuggling worth billions

Chinese customs authorities recorded 7,240 cases of smuggling last year, involving some 14 billion yuan (US\$1.8 billion) worth of goods, according to the General Administration of Customs.

Fewer work deaths per 100 million GDP

Accidental deaths per 100 million yuan (US\$12.9 million U.S. dollars) of GDP earned were 0.558 in 2006, down more than 20 percent from the figure for 2005, the State Administration of Work Safety announced on Wednesday.

Oil theft

The police across the country arrested more than 4,500 people for stealing oil, damaging pipelines, and illegally drilling for oil or gas last year, the Ministry of Public Security announced Wednesday

(By Jiang Xubo)

Cooperation

Solving Beijing's housing crunch

'For cooperative housing, they can slash out the developers' profit margin (30 - 40 percent), as well as the fees for advertising and sales.'



Yu Lingang

CFP Photos

By Annie Wei

With climbing real estate prices becoming one of China's greatest frustrations, individual cooperative housing (ICH) projects have sprouted up across the nation to seek out affordable housing solutions and a way to stymie the greed of real estate developers.

The project

The push for ICH in Beijing in 2003 touched off responses in other cities like Nanjing, Guangzhou, Xi'an, Hangzhou and Shanghai, but it wasn't till November 2006 that two cooperative housing projects in Wenzhou and Shenzhen took steps towards success.

In Beijing, Meng Xiansheng, a real estate lawyer from the Beijing Renhe Law Firm, publicly announced his cooperative housing project this week.

Meng's project lies in Miyun Reservoir, northeast of Beijing's suburban area, which already has 10,000 square meters of buildings. Meng said it would be a community for retired people.

Each apartment is less than 100 square meters, and all participants in the project have to pay 100,000 yuan (US\$12,800) in advance.

The community's 600 apartments, each valued around 300,000 yuan (US\$38,000), will be built in three periods. Meng said three types will be available: 60, 80 and 100 square meters.

The idea

The recent real estate boom has turned from a sign of improving living standards into a nightmare of debt. Many people who mortgage an apartment complain that a big chunk of their income goes only to interest.

'Mortgage slaves' has become a joke word among many young employees who battle to make their tight budgets work.

Still, more and more people find no matter how hard they work, their increasing salaries cannot match rocketing real estate costs.

Around Beijing's fourth ring road, the cost per square meter can reach 19,800 yuan (US\$2,500).

The Beijing Municipal Construction Committee's data shows 88 million square meters of apartment space were sold at 2.5 billion yuan (US\$321 million), which equals an average price of 2,874 yuan (US\$370) per square meter.

However, the average price of real estate projects in Beijing, including suburban areas, reached 8,792 yuan (US\$1,130) per square meter.

The Ministry of Finance's latest investigative report on 39 developers shows they tried to evade a total of 1.1 billion (US\$141 million) yuan in taxes.

The poor housing situation has been exposed by media. Fewer square meters than developers promised, poor quality, apartments being sold to several buyers and fake information are only a few of the known problems.

Under pressure, Yu Lingang, a Beijing man, came up with the idea for ICH.

Long march

On December 1, 2003, Yu announced his proposal online. Yu's idea spread like wildfire over the country, and ICH project movers from Wenzhou, Shenzhen and Zhengzhou jumped up.

Although he got quick responses from more than 100 people, Yu was unsuccessful in acquiring land for the project.

Each time, he was beaten by other developers because of shaky financial backing and limited support from other participants.

Although ICH is still experimental, two successful cases in Shenzhen and Wenzhou have given people hope.

Lin Loren from Shenzhen is the mover for one of China's only two successful cooperative housing projects.

He said he set up an office for ICH in early of 2005 with more than 200 members, but he failed in two bids. "These failures helped us change our ideas and strategies to find a better solution," he said.

Lin said his background as a volunteer for Shenzhen charity projects gave him a strong network that eventually helped him win a bid for two condemned buildings totaling 6 million yuan.

When shared by the 81 participants, each square meter cost only 1,600 yuan (US\$205), while neighboring apartments cost more than 5,000 yuan (US\$640) per square meter.

After Lin's success, another group in Wenzhou announced their project would break ground within five months.

On November 15, 2006, Zhao Zhiqiang, general secretary of the Wenzhou Market-ing Association, said they'd secured a piece of land from the government through a trusted property company.

The association signed a development contract with a property company, which would grant them a legitimate right to buy and develop land.

The land cost 105 million yuan (US\$13.5 million), but the whole project was esti-

mated to cost each member only 5,300 yuan (US\$480) per square meter, compared to 11,000 yuan (US\$1,400) per square meter in other neighborhood projects.

Rising doubts

Some people raised doubts about the legitimacy, professionalism and supervision of individual cooperating housing.

Meng said illegal fund-raising means collecting money from the public without stating a clear objective. However, raising funds for cooperative housing projects has a clear intention - to sell apartments at cost instead of for profit.

Others doubt the quality of such projects.

Wu Xingwang, a contractor for Easy-home, a construction company, said cooperative housing didn't mean people in the project had to build the house brick by brick. They can trust the project to a qualified construction company.

"What they want to do is to shrink the profit margin of real estate developers," Wu, who has worked in villa construction sites for years, said.

"For cooperative housing, they can slash out the developers' profit margin (30 - 40 percent), as well as the fees for advertising and sales. That's how they have a lower price than apartments sold by real estate developers," he said.

For project promoters, competing with the real estate tycoons to acquire land is difficult, but Meng said getting land isn't the biggest problem.

"Beijing only approves several dozens plots of land each year, but there are more than 3,000 real estate developers in town. Acquisition of land is difficult for everyone."

Meng said that the bottleneck is the lack of a proven model for ICH. "People get distracted about the details and it becomes hard to cooperate," Meng said.

So, instead of seeking low-income housing solutions, Meng said he intends to find a solution for cooperative housing. That's why his first project is for retired people, and if it works out fine, they will try cooperative housing aimed at different consumers.

Right now, representatives from twelve cities are planning to set up an organization to share experiences and explore feasible models to make ICH an alternative in China's real estate market.

"We hope we can make it happen, and we believe the government will pass laws and regulations for it," Meng said.



Meng Xiansheng
Photo provided by Sina.com



Beijing suffers as 'love affair' with cars grows stronger

BELJING (Reuters) – The number of new vehicles registered in Beijing hit a new record in the first 18 days of 2007, Xinhua news agency said this week, as the city struggled to cope with worsening traffic jams ahead of the 2008 Olympics. More than 22,000 vehicles – which under China's statistics system includes everything from private cars to trucks – were registered since the new year and an estimated three million will be on the roads by May, the official news agency said.

"The Chinese love affair with car ownership continues unabated," the report said.

The Chinese capital already boasts more than two million privately owned vehicles and 4.24 million people have a driving license, it added. The city has a population of around 15 million.

"We granted more than 2,400 new driving licenses in a single day," Xinhua quoted an unnamed spokesman for the Beijing Municipal Traffic Man-



More cars inevitably worsen the capital's traffic.

CFP Photo

agement Bureau as saying.

Traffic congestion in the capital has proved a headache for organizers of the 2008 Beijing Olympics, despite the government investing some US\$40 billion to expand the

antiquated subway system and build new roads.

It has also worsened the already serious air pollution.

To tackle the problem, the government is trying to encourage more people to use

public transport.

If Beijing's most ambitious expansion plan is approved, the capital could have the world's longest subway network by 2020, exceeding that of London, state media said last year.

Expert comment

By Jiang Xubo

Professor Zhang Guowu, an expert in traffic management at Beijing Jiaotong University, says there is no doubt that the capital's traffic jams are going to worsen with more and more cars on the road. However, Zhang noted it is possible to lessen the burden

they create.

"The government could demand car owners to pay higher fees for curbside parking," he said, "or even introduce congestion fees, which have been widely adopted in foreign cities including Tokyo."

Zhang noted that those mea-

sures would surely increase the cost of driving a car, and discourage car owners from driving in the city.

"This would help reduce the number of cars on the capital's roads and ease its traffic jams," the professor said.

At the same time, Zhang added, the government should

try to improve public transportation by building longer subways and more speed lanes for the capital's public buses.

"Making those options cheaper and more convenient will encourage many more people to choose public transportation over private cars," Zhang said.

Big sandstorms are spring forecast

Snow shortage, desertification and drought cited as factors

BELJING (MSNBC) – Beijing is likely to suffer more-severe sandstorms than normal this spring due to an unusually mild and dry winter, local media reported on Monday.

Higher-than-average temperatures and little snowfall could exacerbate the problem when heavy winds sweep across northern China, the Beijing News said, citing the Beijing Environmental Protection Bureau (BEPB).

"This warm, dry weather loosens the soil, and when the wind lifts in spring, sandstorm conditions can easily develop," the paper quoted BEPB chief Shi Hanmin as saying.

"Because of this, Beijing could possibly face severe sandstorm pollution this spring."

Beijing and much of northern China suffer sandstorms every spring, as heavy winds lift soil from the country's West and Mongolian steppes and dump dust on homes and cars thousands of miles away.

Desertification and persistent

drought have exacerbated the problem in recent years, with the thick yellow dust reaching as far away South Korea and Japan.

Beijing, which suffered 17 sandstorms in the spring of 2006, has pledged to hold a sandstorm-free Olympics in 2008 and has launched campaigns to repair denuded land and rein in overgrazing and over-logging.

But environmental officials have admitted that China, whose landmass is one-third desert, will never completely tame the storms due to the sheer size of its sandy regions.

The official Xinhua news agency reported on Monday that 462,666 hectares of land in China's northern region of Inner Mongolia were lost to soil erosion in 2006.

In a bid to improve the capital's air quality, Beijing would introduce a raft of measures in 2007, Shi said, including upgrading 1,100 boilers and canceling 2,580 high-polluting public buses and enforcing "Euro 4" emissions standards for all new cars in 2008.

Expert comment

By Jiang Xubo

Zhang Xinshi, a researcher at the Chinese Academy of Sciences' Institute of Botany, told Beijing Today that the mild, dry winter and desertification certainly contribute to the city's sandstorms, adding that global warming also plays a role in the long term. "The government has been working on controlling sandstorms," Zhang said, "but it takes time for the measures to take effect."

According to Zhang, sandstorms can be mitigated in two ways: reducing wind speed or decreasing sand lands. Those factors determine the sandstorms' duration and frequency. Currently, Zhang noted, different measures are used in different regions to deal with

the storms.

"We could grow shrubs and grass in dry regions, and grow shelter forests in oases," Zhang said. "In urban areas, we usually plant more trees and add more greenbelts."

For Beijing, Zhang suggested a multi-ring system to shelter the city from serious sandstorms. "The outer ring is the mountainous area which surrounds the capital," Zhang said. "We should restore its long-damaged vegetation, allowing the area to regain its capacity to hold water."

Zhang also suggested changing the capital's outskirts into a zone with both woods and grass, which could serve as the middle ring. "The inner ring consists mainly of the city's green belts," Zhang said.

China moves to close wealth gap

BELJING (AP) – China is mobilizing its tax system to help close a politically volatile wealth gap, and is also removing a disparity between the tax rates for mainland Chinese companies and non-mainland firms.

The Chinese tax commissioner, Xie Xuren, said Wednesday that the government would cut taxes on the poor and step up efforts to stop cheating by the rich.

Tax revenues soared by 22 percent last year to 3.7 trillion yuan (US\$475 billion), Xie said.

This year, Beijing plans to cut taxes on low-income groups and fight tax evasion by the rich "to ensure fairness and social justice and to minimize the wealth gap," Xie said at a news conference.

The government is trying to defuse tensions over the growing gulf between an urban elite, who have profited the most from more than 20 years of economic growth, and the majority, who remain poor.

Xie gave no details of the planned tax breaks. Beijing abolished its tax on farmland in 2005 in an effort to raise incomes in the rural areas, home to 800 million people.

Xie also said that the government would combine laws that tax mainland and non-mainland companies at different rates to ensure fairness.

More doping tests for Beijing Olympics

BELJING (AP) – The number of doping tests at the 2008 Olympics will increase significantly over the number performed three years ago in Athens.

Around 4,500 doping tests will be conducted in Beijing, the China Daily newspaper reported on Friday, citing a Beijing organizing committee official.

"As part of its zero tolerance approach to fighting doping, the International Olympic Committee has decided to increase the number of tests by a large amount," organizing committee executive vice president Yang Shu'an was quoted as saying. The newspaper said about 3,500 tests were carried out at the 2004 Athens Olympics.

Beijing to mark one-year countdown with 10,000 paddlers

BELJING (Reuters) – Ten thousand Beijingers will play table tennis on 1,000 tables in Tiananmen Square to mark the one-year countdown to the 2008 Olympics on August 8, local media reported on Tuesday.

After trials held in each of the city's districts and counties, the chosen players will compete in front of the electronic countdown board outside the China National Museum, Municipal Sports Bureau chief Sun Kanglin told Beijing Radio.

Table tennis, known as ping pong, is China's national ball sport with participation levels far outstripping those of soccer or basketball.

Chery plans overseas plants

Beijing, January 25 (AP) – Chery Automobile Co, China's biggest domestic automaker, plans to set up three assembly plants abroad in the Middle East, Eastern Europe and South America.

The announcement adds to ambitious plans for Chery, which says it hopes to export to the United States and announced a plan in December to make cars for DaimlerChrysler AG.

"We will formulate a clear plan

for these plants this year," Chery chairman Yin Tongyao says. Yin gave no specific locations or a timetable for the factories.

A Chery spokeswoman, Xie Ling, confirmed that the company plans to open the three factories but said she had no other information.

Chery sold 272,400 vehicles in China last year, but it trails General Motors Corp, which sold 876,747 vehicles last year,

as the country's biggest automaker overall.

Chery, based in the southeastern province of Anhui, already assembles vehicles abroad in facilities run with local partners in Iran, Malaysia, Russia, Ukraine, Brazil and Egypt.

Chery announced plans in 2005 with a US partner to export vehicles to the US as early as this year. It later suspended that plan but says it wants to eventually

enter the US market.

Other Chinese automakers also say they hope to sell in the United States, but industry analysts say they will have trouble meeting safety and environmental standards.

Chery and DaimlerChrysler said in December that the Chinese automaker would manufacture cars for sale worldwide under the Dodge, Chrysler or Jeep brands.

Bank of Beijing wins QDII quota

Beijing, January 25 (Reuters) – Bank of Beijing, 19.9 percent owned by Dutch bank ING, has won official approval to invest US\$300 million of client money abroad under the Qualified Domestic Institutional Investor scheme (QDII).

The Chinese bank is the country's first city commercial bank to win such a quota. The bank has completed its product design, which it expects to launch in February.

Ctrip partners with MSN

Shanghai, January 25 (Reuters) – China's largest online travel agent, Ctrip.com, is partnering with MSN to cash in the country's growing class of young and affluent consumers looking to splash out on travel.

The travel agent will tap over 20 million MSN Messenger users in China. In return, Ctrip will help MSN China build its online travel channel where MSN users and visitors can book hotels, plane tickets and holidays through Internet-based services.

Sony and Warner join local market

Beijing, January 25 (AP) – Sony BMG Music Entertainment and Warner Music Group have teamed with Access China Media Solutions to set up a joint venture in China to develop technology for distributing music downloads and other content to mobile phones.

Access China Media Solutions is a joint venture that includes the Access Company of Tokyo and Melodeo, a digital media company based in Seattle, US.

Starr Int'l joins Citic Securities

Shanghai, January 25 (MarketWatch) – The US Starr International Co is joining Citic Securities, China's fifth-largest brokerage by assets, to focus on buying stakes in Chinese companies that are planning to make initial public offerings.

Each said it will invest up to 500 million yuan in the 50-50 joint venture.

Mengniu partners with NBA

Beijing, January 24 (AP) – The National Basketball Association (NBA) has a new marketing partner – Mengniu, the Inner Mongolian milk producer.

The NBA hopes to improve its profile in China before the 2008 Olympics. Mengniu will be known as the "official dairy product of the NBA in China."

China Mobile buys into Paktel

Beijing, January 24 (IDGNS) – China Mobile Communications, the world's largest mobile phone service provider, sealed a US\$284 million deal to buy 88.9 percent shares of Paktel Ltd, a wireless operator in Pakistan.

The Chinese company bought the shares from the US-based Millicom. Paktel is the fifth-largest mobile phone network operator in Pakistan with over 1.3 million subscribers.

Visa ties up with Bank of China



Visa signed an agreement this week with the Bank of China to boost business through the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing.

Both parties will strengthen cooperation in areas like onsite ATMs and POS machines, Olympic ticket sales, online sales of officially-licensed Olympic products and development of new Olympic-themed products.

Visa has been the only official electronic payment brand and payment service provider of the Olympics since 1986.

The Bank of China will be the only licensed bank providing commercial banking and investment banking services, as well as financial products.

Xinhua Photo

Delta applies for Shanghai flights

Atlanta, January 23 – Delta Air Lines filed an application with the US Department of Transportation for nonstop flights between Atlanta and Shanghai under the 2004 US-China Air Services Agreement.

Delta proposed to provide daily, year-round nonstop service from March 25, 2008.

"The 55 million people in the Southeastern US are dramatically underserved in terms of nonstop and one-stop service to China," Delta appealed in the application.

Delta has been active in the China since 1987. In September 2006, Delta opened its third China sales office in Shanghai, expanding on existing offices in Beijing and Guangzhou.

Lenovo America's president steps down from post

New York, January 24 (CRN) – Lenovo said Scott Smith, its Americas president, is leaving to pursue other interests.

Smith's exit comes after Lenovo reported slumping US sales. Lenovo's US notebook sales in the second quarter came in at US\$1.91 billion, and desktop sales totaled US\$1.57 billion.

Smith joined Lenovo with its US\$1.75 billion acquisition of IBM's PC business in May 2005.

Pension fund eyes more investments abroad

Beijing, January 24 (Reuters) – China's National Social Security Fund plans to invest another US\$750 million into overseas financial markets in the first quarter of 2007, chairman Xiang Huai-cheng said this week.

Speaking to reporters, he said that the fund had invested US\$850 million abroad by the end of 2006 and that it would have invested a total US\$1.6 billion by the end of March.

The Chinese government was

encouraging the fund to step up its global investments.

But the fund had yet to map out any global investment strategy for the whole of 2007.

To invest abroad, the fund was able to draw on its own foreign exchange assets or buy the currency it needed with its stash of yuan, he said.

The returns on the fund's overseas investments to date has reached around 2.02 percent.

The fund, a total US\$30 bil-

lion, only began investing in overseas markets after awarding 10 foreign fund managers hotly contested mandates to manage its money abroad in late November.

Fund managers were asked last year for their proposals on how to invest US\$800 million in shares and US\$300 million in bonds and cash.

At an earlier news conference in November, Xiang said only that the mandates totaled more than US\$1 billion.

McDonald's, KFC gear up for drive-thru



Zhang Haichao (second from left) and Jeffrey Schwartz (third from left) at the opening ceremony

Photo by Chu Meng

By Chu Meng

McDonald's opened its first drive-thru restaurant in Beijing last Friday in partnership with China Petroleum and Chemical

Corporation (Sinopec) to exploit the country's appetite for cars and fast food.

Jeffrey Schwartz, McDonald's China CEO, said the company will open 25 to 30 more locations in the next 12 to 18 months.

They plan to open 100 new restaurants in China by 2010, and more than half will have drive-thru windows.

"Gas stations and drive-thrus are booming as car purchases by newly affluent drivers speed China's change from a bicycle culture to a car one," Schwartz said.

Because of the high pressure of unstable world crude oil prices,

Sinopec is emphasizing non-oil products to balance profits in oil sector, according to Zhang Haichao, vice president of Sinopec.

"We'll build more gas stations like this one – which includes at least six gas pumps, a 24-hour supermarket, ATMs, a parking area and fine toilets," he said.

The 20-year deal with Sinopec enables McDonald's to pick any site where the Chinese partner decides to open a restaurant at any of its filling stations.

McDonald's has 15 drive-thrus in Shanghai and Guangdong.

Last year, KFC announced a plan to build 100 drive-thru restaurants in China by 2008.

China's top film authority announced last week it will launch a fund to help 16 promising Chinese directors make movies and improve the quality of China's films.

The State Administration of Radio, Film and Television (SARFT) will offer 500,000 yuan (US\$64,300) for each script that meets its criteria and help the films get published.

The plan was developed to encourage established young directors who are not yet known internationally.

The fund will support filmmakers under 45 years old who had made an impact. Next year, the age cut-off point will be lowered to 40, an official said.

The decision might lead to the conclusion that official regulators are tired of the same few big-name directors as many Chinese netizens. Li Liang, for example, commenting at the Kaiju Shake-down blog, wrote:

"As for Zhang Yimou, Feng Xiaogang and Chen Kaige, the larger the budgets they get for making movies, the worse their directing gets. Maybe somebody should impose a 500,000 yuan (US\$64,300) budget on any scripts those three decide to direct in the next few years."

The decline in 'humane care and culture' in films made recently has been key to this decision. Domestic big budget productions must not simply look to make a profit, but should promote the official theme of a 'harmonious society', whilst also pleasing the audience.

(Source: Global Voices Online)

Fund to help promising directors



Lu Chuan



Wang Xiaoshuai



Xu Jinglei



Jia Zhangke



Ning Hao



Ning Cai



Wulan Tana



Zhang Yang

The State Administration of Radio, Film and Television launched a fund to sponsor a group of 16 young and potential film directors.

Each director will receive 500,000 yuan (US\$64,300) per script.

The administration promised to help publish their films. The plan is to encourage young directors to conduct more and better films, and to upgrade the overall quality of China's films.

CFP Photo

Comment

Three hundred and sixty million yuan was invested in Zhang Yimou's *Curse of the Golden Flower*, which is enough to fund about 720 movies. If those other movies contribute to the construction of a 'harmonious society,' then it would be money better spent.

— Getting Dark

Is this policy necessary? If the promising young directors are already established, then let the

market do its thing. Why not try to identify the unknowns who need funding most!

— dontaskwhoiam

From my perspective, SARFT is going to ruin these directors.

— Luo Fenfen

Domestic films must not simply seek big budgets and large-scale productions.

They should work to raise human awareness and to improve content in terms of ideology and character.

— ccp

The real issue for me is the

size and scale of China — perhaps movie culture is needed to keep people together.

— Jordan

I don't think SARFT funding can help artistic creations. If directors take this money, they'll be restricted. But if SARFT actively seeks them out to give them money, will any directors dare refuse it? If they do, will their films have trouble getting past the censors?

— Channel 3

Everything will be OK if they

shoot mainstream movies and make them well, people will still like them.

— Luan Ma

A real artist's creativity and works should not be influenced by any ideology. Any art that serves a third party isn't art. I'd put up the money to fund directors like Lu Chuan, Wang Xiaoshuai, Xu Jinglei, Jia Zhangke, Ning Hao, Ning Cai, Wulan Tana and Zhang Yang to shoot good Chinese movies.

— ppp

Is it possible that if they accept the funding, they'll be controlled and supervised?

— yy

It is said that SARFT will appoint people to oversee script discussions and decide the subjects. This funding plan is expected to become a sort of ongoing system, which will ensure annual investment in themed films. I wonder if with this kind of funding, will they still be able to shoot good movies.

— Charley

Controversy over prostitution notice

By Huang Daohen

A newly erected warning sign outside Sihui subway station that states "Illegal activities such as street-walking and prostitution are strictly prohibited in this place," has sparked a heated controversy.

Other than the notice on prostitution, the sign is similar to many others in the

capital's streets, warning the public of a number of common crimes and frauds. The number of a police hotline is given so the public can call if they encounter anything suspicious.

A 'Mr Fu' was the first to notice the wording on the sign when he passed it one day after work. He was disturbed by

its use of the phrase, 'This place,' and wondered if this implied prostitution is allowed elsewhere.

According to the Chaoyang Public Security Bureau, the sign was erected to inform passers-by that if they encounter the listed problems they can immediately call police on the hotline number

provided.

Online mockery at the "incompetence and stupidity" of the police was condemned in a number of newspaper editorials this week, which suggested that the critics were being unfair to the police by being too picky about the wording of the sign.

Comment

Prostitution is after all a kind of business. A deal is done and a transaction completed. There is nothing wrong with it if you avoid disease. I would say it can release tension and benefit health. It might affect a married couple's life or cause discord and trouble, but I think that depends. Anyway, prostitution exists and that is not a bad thing.

— Hrl624

Having erected a sign out of good will only become 'news' in the bubble of public opinion, I'd guess that the local police are pretty depressed. Citizens' objections are obviously just lin-

guistic quibbles; the value judgment of whether or not soliciting prostitutes is permitted rests on the bottom line of the law and ethical standards rather than on the absurd logic that what the signs do not prohibit is permissible.

— Deng Jianhai

(Source: China Business View)

I feel that the 'Mr Fu' who has focused too much on the phrase 'this place' must have nothing better to do with his time. This is only a local problem. Why there is so much fuss over a word?

— Enrique

People must be very bored to make such a fuss! It is only a warning sign about a small area. If you have time

to nit-pick like this, why not go and do something useful like volunteer environmental work.

— Yang Ge

Imagine a city full of signs prohibiting stuff. That wouldn't seem like a place you would want to live, the list of prohibitions is enough to give you the chills.

— zz

No society with a genuine rule of law would list all illegal activities on a public sign.

— Sara

I think it is very good notice, and certainly it will be useful. I would welcome the relevant departments erecting warning signs in our community. There

are some attractive young ladies 'active' in my community and this may have a very bad impact on young people. Prostitution should be allowed only in red-light districts.

— 923laotie

They put up a sign then the police do nothing. It is a lazy move by the police.

— Jasmin

Since the Public Security Bureau is aware that the problem is with using the word 'here,' why not change it to another word? Otherwise, people may take it for granted that since prostitution is prohibited here, it might have been allowed in other places.

— Bestracy



Gordon Sildlow (left) and Dr Christopher Riggs (middle) from the Hong Kong Jockey Club lecture on veterinary training.
Photo by Hu Yan

Beijing vets prepare for Olympics

By Gan Tian

The 2008 Olympic Veterinary Training Course kicked off last Friday with Doctor Christopher M Riggs, the Hong Kong Jockey Club's head of Veterinary Clinical Services, giving a lecture to mainland volunteers on veterinary medicine.

Riggs discussed the difficulties the Olympic veterinary team will need to be prepared for.

He said the equestrian cross-country jumping is the most difficult event, because the large field makes it difficult to quickly reach the horses, and the nature of the field makes it easy for the horses to get hurt, so they need to be

prepared for how the horses will handle Hong Kong's hot climate.

The lecture was designed to help find qualified Chinese veterinarians to participate in the event, he said.

"In China, most vets don't have a lot of experience working with horses. We need to train them so, in the future, their ability will be better."

Riggs also said applicants should have a mastery of English, so all interviews and lectures are done in English.

There will be 50 vets on staff for the Games, but only 13 vacancies for Chinese people, and it will

be the first time Chinese vets are participating in the Olympics.

"A horse in the Olympics is worth at least several million yuan. If we're not professional, how can they trust us with their horses? Studying in Hong Kong is a chance for us to improve," Chang Wei, the director of the equestrian event, said.

Selected applicants will be sent to Hong Kong to work with other veterinarians in the equestrian event.

Staff members from various sports associations, vets in the equestrian team and jockey clubs and professors and graduates from China Agricultural University participated in the training.

Expats awarded for contributions to Beijing

By Jackie Zhang

The Great Wall Friendship prize was awarded to 15 Beijing expats from Australia, the US, UK, Japan, France and Canada last week.

These foreigners were prized for their efforts in their professions.

Wu Jianping, one recipient, was awarded for his participation in Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) research in Beijing. Wu went to study in the University of Southampton, UK, in the early 90s, then stayed as a teacher and acquired UK citizenship.

Six or seven years ago, Wu began his frequent trips to China to participate in ITS research.

Now, he comes and goes between China and the UK for the ITS research as director of the UK-China Joint ITS Center established by Beijing Jiaotong University and the University of Southampton.

"Some products of our research are already in use, and are generating good feedback. One is a transportation emulator which helps us test new methods on computer, and the other is a way to provide people live transportation information," Wu said.

Peter King, from Canada, was another prizewinner for his dedicated teaching in

Beijing University of Technology (BUT).

King participated in organizing the Montreal Olympic Games in 1976, and now teaches English and shares professional knowledge about the Olympic Games with the 2008 Games volunteers in BUT.

"I've been in Beijing now for three years. I was very surprised and very honored that I'd been nominated, but even more so that I had been selected as a recipient," King said.

"Coming to China was, for me, a completely new experience in correcting my wrong impressions and starting to learn what China and Beijing really are about," he said.

King said he felt there was optimism about China's future, as there was in Canada 40 years ago about that country's future.

"It's as exciting for me to be here now as it was for me to be in Canada then. China is a fascinating place to be, and I'm very honored to have the chance to be at the fringes of its change," he said.

The Great Wall Friendship was first presented in 1999 by the Beijing Municipal Government. Each year, the government awards working Beijing expats who have contributed to the city.

Buy UNICEF Greeting Cards/Gifts and Help Children in China

购买联合国儿童基金会的贺卡/礼品 帮助中国贫困儿童

unicef
联合国儿童基金会



MAKE A WISH

— Buy a Card, Support a Child

In true festive spirit, when you give beautiful UNICEF cards and gifts to family, friends and clients this season, your generosity reaches many more than just those on your list. Your purchase enables children in China to benefit from the life-saving and life-changing gifts of healthcare, better nutrition and basic education particularly for girls and protection of disadvantaged groups.

What is special about UNICEF cards?

The UNICEF greeting card program has a 51-year history that began when a seven-year old girl in the former Czechoslovakia gave her drawing to UNICEF to say "thank you" for the help she received. Today, UNICEF cards are sold in many countries using designs donated by artists from all over the world.

Most people don't know that 10 percent of UNICEF's worldwide programs are funded by sales of its cards and gifts. And if you or your company sends UNICEF cards, the recipients may buy the cards next year. That's significant, because the more cards we sell, the more children we can reach.

UNICEF cards are printed on recycled paper, and they're great for a variety of occasions: Birthdays, Anniversaries, Get Well, Thinking of You, Season's Greetings, and general use. You can also give them as gifts to your family and friends. Proceeds from cards sold in China are used exclusively for projects in China.

Cards are usually sold in packs of 10 costing RMB70-85 (about US\$10). The money goes a long way: Just RMB1 provides a year's supply of Vitamin A supplements for a Chinese child, boosting her immune system and reducing her chances of childhood mortality. If you're in Beijing, you can come to see the colorful cards on display at our showroom (from now to Dec. 24, 2006, open all week days, 8:30-17:30), conveniently located in central Beijing at 12 Sanlitun Road in Chaoyang District.

Also, welcome to our stand sale and appreciate the support from the following hotels and department stores:

Kempinski Hotel Beijing Lufthansa Center	Nov. 15, 2006 - Feb. 28, 2007
Jing Lun Hotel	Dec. 1 - 5, 2006
The Kerry Mall	Dec. 1 - 25, 2006
Pacific Century, Beijing	Dec. 1 - 28, 2006
China World Shopping Mall	Dec. 1 - 28, 2006
Full Tower	Dec. 4 - 8, 2006

You can contact us by calling (+8610) 6532-3131, UNICEF

- Extension 2205 / 6 for Beijing
- Extension 2204 for East China
- Extension 2207 for South China



A Long Way from Home

13-year-old Xue Lian and her 11-year-old sister Xue Yuan spent six months and many miles away from home to beg, sell flowers and collect empty bottles and cans in the city, all for a meagre RMB200.

The sisters were forced to drop out of the school and leave their rural home in Anhui when their father fell ill with tuberculosis. "We were so afraid we would not be able to find our way back home," remembers Xue Lian. Finally, local police picked up the girls and took them to a children's association center in Hefei, a UNICEF-supported program that helps kids like Xue Lian and Xue Yuan find their way back home.

UNICEF continues to support projects such as this and works with the Chinese government to return street children to safe environment and give them access to basic services, such as education.

Note: the children's names have been changed to protect their identity.



Volunteers' phone numbers:

13661174500 134 01035161 13701093614 13693082466 01084792041
13953398998 13581881269 13811503009 13953398998 13910067280
13301218393 13901381945 1391014 8806 13701018926 13910512114
13718813188 13701206401 13810421599 13501000678 13910975292
13001109456 13811955118 13366600098 13501356898 13910727200



衷心感谢社会各界贺卡与礼品购买人, 特别鸣谢以下单位 (按字母排序):

埃森哲	零壹集团 (香港) 有限公司	通用电气 (中国) 有限公司
爱尔康 (中国) 眼科	南都房产集团	UT斯达康 (中国) 有限公司
安利 (中国) 日用品有限公司	南京新力传媒有限公司	喜达屋酒店与度假村国际集团
奥迪中国	荣祥	香港新世界百货
北京青年报社	赛诺菲安万特集团	新世界俱乐部
北京融鼎投资有限公司	三菱商事 (中国) 商业有限公司	新世界中国地产
北青传媒有限公司	山西国贸大酒店	宜家家居
成都深长城地产有限公司	上海长宁国际学校	盈科中心
德国莱茵TUV中国集团	上海少年日报	中国贸易促进会专利商标事务所
佳能 (中国) 有限公司	深圳统一星巴克咖啡有限公司	中国日报
锦江麦德龙现购自运有限公司	深圳企业摄影学会	中建国际建设公司
康明斯	新道拉恩索中国	中信基金管理有限责任公司
御风艺术画廊	苏州阳光新地置业有限公司	21PM项目管理 (上海) 有限公司



Foreign mayors help Beijing's urban planning

By Chu Meng

An international seminar on 'Balanced urban revitalization between social cohesion and heritage conservation' was organized by United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)'s Beijing Office and Tsinghua University this week in Beijing.

Mayors from 30 internationally renowned cities like Seoul, Lyon, Paris, Naples, Budapest, Porto Alegre, Barcelona and Isfahan shared how their cities handled revitalization of historical districts.

The seminar debates focused on three themes: revitalization of historical districts, preservation and reconstruction and finding the balance between historical preservation and modernization.

Each theme was explored through case studies from different countries.

For 20 years, Spanish cities like Barcelona have been examples of how careful laws and policies can result in investment and improved social equity and without excluding historical districts.

Famous Catalan urban planner Jordi Borja said Tuesday, "Twenty-eight years ago Barcelona was only emerging, but by the 1992 Olympic Games, the city had become a pow-



The mayor from Seoul (middle) and Isfahan (right) visit the Huashi residential area in Chongwen district this Tuesday.

Photo by Guo Tielu

erful social, economic, cultural and political force."

Borja said that building up a city, promoting citizen participation and devising forward-looking projects aren't separate tasks, but intertwined.

Enyedi György, a UNESCO expert, said urban cultural heritage records the history of the city, of the people, of religions and of social and cultural transformations they go through. This can be seen in the spatial and the economic

structures of a city, and in its buildings and monuments.

Today the historic centers are the features of the mayors' cities. Beyond cultural value, they also fulfill an important function in modern urban development.

New guide attracts investment in Belgium

By Han Manman

Chinese interested in investing in Belgium can find useful, practical information in Chinese now that the Belgian embassy has launched its new investment guide in Chinese at Tuesday's investment and trading symposium held in the embassy.

"Belgium is a worthwhile country for Chinese companies to invest in," Belgian Ambassador to China Bernard Pierre said at the symposium.

The guide aims to entice Chinese companies to invest in Belgium. Pierre said Belgium, with its population of 10 million, is called 'the heart of Europe,' and has already drawn considerable foreign investment.

The embassy plans to simplify visa applications to grant visas to Chinese citizens within 72 hours to attract more investors.

Belgium is earnest about promoting Belgium as the best choice for Chinese companies to invest in, he said.

The country's advantages including its ideal geographical position, perfect communication network, a sturdy infrastructure and attractive tax policies, Pierre said.

Chinese businesses are looking for a market for their products and a place to invest in infrastructure and logistics, the Belgium embassy said.

A survey of 100 Chinese business executives by Loyens, a Brussels law firm, showed many see Belgium as one of the most attractive countries to invest in.

More than 80 percent of executives contacted in the survey said they planned to invest in a foreign country, and the majority favored European nations over the US.

They ranked Belgium as the 5th favorite country for investment, the Netherlands and Germany being the top two.

British embassy warns of fake email

By Han Manman

The British Council (BC) warned Chinese students this week to be careful of the recent fake scholarship emails.

'Spoof' or 'hoax' emails and websites are becoming a problem for unsuspecting Internet users, the BC said.

The emails claim to be sent by

Chevening, or other trusted organizations, and can look identical to authentic emails.

The links in the emails direct users to fake websites that ask for personal information, such as credit card numbers, usernames or account passwords, to steal identities and commit other crimes.

Since the emails began, the

BC has warned that students who apply for scholarships will never be asked for financial details or personal details beyond the scope of the official Chevening application form.

Any questionable emails should be confirmed immediately with the BC.

The Chevening Scholarship

is the British Government's flagship scholarship.

The Chevening aims to give opportunities for postgraduate studies and research at UK universities.

The scholarship helps as many as 2,000 students from 150 countries to study in the UK, of which more than 200 come from China — the largest single national group.

N
W

今日北京
BEIJING TODAY

English

Great Value

Subscribe for one year: **¥104.00**, and choose either:

1. 3.3 fashion plaza coupon worth RMB100 yuan (available for the first 150 subscribers).
2. An oral English trial course of NewChannel English School (worth RMB30 yuan).
3. One week free trial card for O-Zone Fitness Club (worth RMB 380 yuan and available for the first 500 subscribers).

Add: Floor 6, Zhubang 2000 Building, Phase 2, No.99 Balizhuang Xili, Chaoyang District
Tel: 8586 5577

If you do not want to take up any of the offers, pay just: RMB 88.00 for one year subscription.

Subscription Promotion
Subscription Hotline: 010-6590 2626
btsubscription@ynet.com

Chocolatelove.org

It's all about chocolate

By He Jianwei

A lady wore a gown made of brown silk damask and white artificial sheepskin, creating a contrast in texture. Ribbons of different colors and textures added interesting detail.

This dress highlights the natural colors of chocolates, and brings together its tenderness and enchantment with the mystery and sensuality of the female body.

This was the fashion show finale for 'Encounters with Chocolate, Seven Reasons for Loving Chocolate,' a press conference organized by the Chocolate Information Center for the launch of its website chocolatelove.org.

The website provides health and nutrition information on chocolates, the history and culture of chocolate and data on online chocolate clubs.

"Good quality chocolate is beneficial to human health, especially to the heart and blood pressure. Chocolate is the best choice of energy supplement," Chang Cuiqing, a doctor from the Institute of Sports Medicine, said.

The Chocolate Information Center is the first organization to conduct special research on the relationship between chocolate and human health. They provide research reports that aid various researchers, nutrition and health experts and journalists.



Two girls wear clothes with M&M's and Dove chocolates as decorations.

Photo by Tian Yufeng

'Mr Magic' releases bilingual children's book



Parsons and his Chinese readers

Photo by Zhao Hongyi

By Zhao Hongyi

Jim is a Kung fu boy-fighter time-traveling to the modern world. A thousand-year-old monster also makes an appearance, stealing treasures around the world. Jim fights The Stealing Monster and eventually defeats it with the help of friends – Holly, a girl detective, and her cousin; Wild, a very strong girl; BA Kid (By-accident Kid); and Ya Ya, a Beijing duck.

This is the story of Christopher Parsons's new bilingual book, *The Handy Heroes 1: The Stealing Monster*, released in Beijing this week.

Parsons is also known as 'Mr Magic,' because he puts on magic shows for local kids, when he first came to the city in 1994.

Since then, he has been a DJ

for China Radio International's Easy FM, the host of an English educational program on CETV1 and an English teacher at Beijing's Renmin University.

In addition, he has written five novels and edited over 20 academic English books for Chinese students. He is also chair of an English language center in the eastern part of the city.

Thanks to his magic tricks, communicating with kids has become much easier.

"I have many live magic shows planned, where the kids can come and join in the interactive play – so they can use English in everyday situations and not just study it!" Parsons said.

"I've found that Chinese kids are enthusiastic about learning

English, which I appreciate very, very much," he said, "but I feel too many Chinese children only study English. With my books, they can use English while playing games and even while talking about the books."

To make his books more interesting and easy to read, he invited his Chinese wife to provide a Chinese translation and inserted eye-catching cartoons based on the stories.

"It's not work done only by the two of us," Parsons explained. He's grateful to other expats for helping out in the design, licensing process and printing.

He is now trying to adapt his stories into musicals, so children can practice singing in English, along with the performers.

Saving energy as simple as 'child's play'

By Chen Shasha

The unveiling of a seven-meter-tall black balloon, representing carbon dioxide emissions from cars, kicked off the World Wide Fund's (WWF) '20 Ways to 20 percent' campaign last Saturday.

Targeting the general public, the nationwide campaign aims to promote energy-saving practices that will help fulfill China's goal of reducing its per GDP energy consumption by 20 percent by the end of the 11th 'Five-year Plan.' It also hopes to mitigate environmental issues caused by global warming.

As a developing country with the world's largest population, China's leadership is viewed as crucial in the success of the energy saving cause worldwide. Nowadays, 96 percent of all carbon dioxide emissions are related to urban dwellers' energy consumption.

"Carbon dioxide has the biggest effect on global warming, but if every individual takes even a small action, it will help relieve environmental problems," Dermot O'Gorman, WWF China representative, said.

At the ceremony, eleven WWF children volunteers, offered 20



The WWF event

Photo provided by WWF

energy-saving tips by presenting a puzzle. Tips included keeping computer screens a little darker, using energy-saving washing machines

and putting air conditioners one degree Celsius higher. Following these tips can save the nation 3.3 billion kilowatts per year.

The WWF also encouraged people to drive smartly by staying within certain speed ranges, and warming up their vehicles before driving. The group wants to make people understand that saving energy is as simple and easy as 'child's play,' O'Gorman said.

Li Baohui, the father of a volunteer, said that ever since his daughter participated in the activities, she's become more conscious about saving energy.

Events

Seminar: The Medici Effect

The Medici Game is based on the bestselling book *The Medici Effect* by Frans Johansson. The game is designed to help organizations inspire people and create conditions for producing innovations. It targets organizations across industries and people at all levels. Learn more about it during a seminar organized by the Swedish Chamber of Commerce.

Where: Ball Room 1, first floor of the Radisson SAS Hotel Beijing, 6A Beisanhuan Dong Lu, Chaoyang

When: January 30, 9-11am

Cost: Free for members; 300 yuan for non-members
Tel: 5922 3388 ext 313

Chinese chess workshop

Learn *xiangqi*, Chinese chess, then challenge and amaze the elders playing on street corners. The game is similar to chess, but Chinese characters make it more fun.

Where: Chinese Culture Club, Kent Center, No 29 Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: January 27, 2:30-4:30pm

Cost: 60 yuan

Tel: 6432 9341 (Monday-Friday, 9am-6pm), 6432 1041 (weekday mornings and evenings; weekends, rerouted to mobile phone)

Basically Beethoven musical evening

Pianists, singers, violinists and spoon players are welcome, as, of course, are listeners. Bring an instrument and get involved, under the eye of the distinguished host, Paul Eldon.

Where: Bookworm, Building 4, Nan Sanlun Lu, Chaoyang

When: February 8, 7:30pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 6586 9507

Email:

books@beijingbookworm.com

Hiking: Silver Mountain & Pagoda Forest

Haizi village lies on a quiet road that runs north from the large village of Xia Zhuang, north of Beijing. It's a little-known area of quiet valleys and wooded hills, with the Silver Mountain peak visible all around. The hike is moderately difficult. Prepare your own picnic. Wear good hiking boots, a jacket and long pants and perhaps bring a walking stick.

Drive: 2 hours each way

Walk: 1.5-2 hours

Village visit: 2 hours

Where: Meet at the Chinese Culture Club, Kent Center, No 29 Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: January 28, 9am-4:30pm. Bus leaves at 9am.

Cost: 180 yuan (includes tickets and transportation)

Tel: 6432 9341 (Monday-Friday, 9am-6pm); 6432 1041 (weekday mornings and evenings; weekends, rerouted to mobile phone)

(By He Jianwei)

ASK Beijing Today

Email your questions to:
weiyi@ynet.com

How can I get a work visa in China?

People working in China are required to hold a Z or F visa. The safest way to apply is to do so before you come. Normally you need to go to a Chinese embassy or consulate in your home country with an invitation letter from a company in China, as well as other certificates, such as proof-of-health documents. You can also enter Hong Kong without any visa, apply for a tourist visa at the Hong Kong airport and then start looking for a job in China. Normally, the company that hires you will help with any other issues.

I am a foreigner now working for a Chinese company. Do I need to pay taxes?

Currently, if you are making less than 4,000 yuan per month, you don't need to pay income tax. Chinese people making less than 1,200 yuan per month in Shanghai and Beijing are also exempt from income tax, while in the other cities the threshold is 800 yuan. Normally, the more you make, the higher the tax rate on your income. Most companies in China have accountants to deal with employees' tax issues.

Approximately how much does it cost to raise a cat in Beijing, including food, veterinary and other incidental expenses?

It depends. The average Chinese family does not spend too much on raising a cat; normally food and cat litter will cost about 50 yuan per month. If you want to go beyond the basics, to buy imported cat food for example, it can become expensive. To treat minor cat sicknesses, procedures such as an X-ray will cost about 100 yuan each time, while costs for vaccinations can be more than 100 yuan per year.

I bought Prison Break: Season Two in the street the other day, and I became curious: how soon can Chinese people watch episodes of American television shows after they air in the US?

As far as we know, some Chinese people can watch episodes of American television the day after they air by downloading them from the Internet. People can download pretty much anything from illegal websites, including music and even magazines, which are scanned and uploaded page-by-page. American television can be given Chinese subtitles and made available for downloading within a day of showing in the US.

(By Wei Ying)



The Water Cube opened to the press in June 2006 once construction was completed.

Photo by He Zi

Peeking inside Beijing's Olympic venues

By Huang Daohen

Want to be among the first visitors inside Beijing's main Olympic stadiums? So far, no one has been allowed inside them! Nevertheless, your chance is coming soon: Olympic stadium tours will be officially launched at the International Tourism Fair in June. Yu Debing, vice director of Beijing Tourism Bureau made the announcement on Tuesday.

The construction of Beijing's Olympic venues is on schedule, according to Yu, and most of them will be completed by the end of this year. Beijing will host more than 20 international sports events in the run-up to the coming Olympics.

In June, some major Olympic stadiums – including the Bird's Nest, Water Cube, and a wide variety of other venues – will be formally opened to the public. "We are now trying to work out the tour routes for

Olympic venues to be released at the tourism fair," Yu added.

Tour routes ready for visitors

With the news that Beijing's Olympic venues are soon to be opened, the city's major travel service companies have already created leisurely travel routes. "At present, we have made a number of Olympic stadiums travel routes to suit different guests' requirements," said Wang Guangyan, general manager of inner city travel for China International Travel Service, Beijing. In fact, foreign tourists show more interest in visiting Olympic sites than in other domestic tourism, Wang said.

Jeff Bass, an expat teacher at the University of Science and Technology, Beijing, has been wondering for a long time about visiting the Olympic stadiums in advance of the Games. "As soon as the Olympic travel agencies launch stadium

travel routes, I will be the first to apply," Bass said.

Interaction with Olympic stars

Apart from the excitement of a sneak peek at the Olympic stadiums, visitors may also have the chance to interact face-to-face with Olympic stars. The interactive activities will be officially launched at the 500-day countdown to the opening ceremony, and will last for a whole year. Every day, there will be an Olympic star at the scene to interact with visitors. Imagine playing together with NBA mega-star Yao Ming, famous 110 meter hurdler Liu Xiang, or diving queen Guo Jingjing.

Stadiums in depth

Altogether 31 venues will be used in Beijing during the 29th Olympiad. Most of them have already been completed, though some are still under construction.

The National Stadium, also

known as the 'Bird's Nest,' will be the main track and field stadium for the 2008 Summer Olympics and will host the opening and closing ceremonies.

The stadium's appearance is one of synergy, with no distinction made between the facade and the superstructure. Visitors walk through this formation and enter the spacious promenade that runs full circle around the stands. From there, one can survey the circulation of the entire area, including the stairs that access the three tiered stands.

The international competition-winning design for the National Aquatics Center is known as the 'Water Cube'. The design concept of the 'Water Cube' combines the symbolism of its architecture with the unique water bubble structure, building an appropriate complement to the National Stadium.

Wireless Solutions

By Annie Wei

When you rent an apartment in Beijing, most places provide ADSL but no wireless connection. If you ask for one, the landlord can charge you extra, or refuse altogether because they think it is too much trouble. But especially to people who share an apartment with others, having wireless is really handy; it means no tangled mess of dirty wires in every corner.

First, make a shopping list to keep you focused after you walk into one of the colorful and distracting digital-products stores. The list should include a broadband internet connection, a wireless router, and, for older computers without built-in wireless networking, a wireless network adapter.

Broadband Internet

In China, to get a broadband internet connection, you need to call CNC or China Telecom to install the service for you. For 24-hour-a-day usage, broadband internet

costs 100 to 120 yuan per month.

Wireless routers

The function of a wireless router is to convert the signals coming from your broadband connection into a wireless broadcast, kind of like a cordless phone base station.

Generally speaking, a rented apartment will be shared by two or three persons. Since you are not running an internet cafe but just need to make sure there are enough outlets for everyone in the apartment, a wireless router with four outlets will do.

Wireless routers normally have a wide range, which can cover 30 to 100 meters indoors. Picking the router's location is important. Be aware that metal, microwaves and walls can all affect the quality of wireless reception. Place the router in a high spot, such as the top of a bookshelf. Although most routers list the range that they cover, this is not always reliable. If



Wireless lets you surf anywhere in your apartment.

Photo by Justin Sullivan

you have a big apartment or you wish to surf on your balcony, you should purchase a router with wider coverage.

A wireless router costs from 600 yuan to more than 1,000 yuan, depending on what make it is.

A wireless adapter

Most new laptops today have a built-in wireless network adapter. With Windows XP, your laptop

can search and log online easily, and the same is true for recent versions of Mac OS and Linux. However, people who have an old-style laptop need to buy an adapter. A USB wireless network adapter is the most commonly seen one now, and costs 300 yuan or so.

When you have all of these devices, just hook them all up, turn them all on and start surfing.

By Huang Daohen

Contemporary Asian artworks are again in the spotlight at the exhibition Asia Art Now. Fifty-two contemporary artists from South Korea, China, Japan, Iran, Vietnam, Bangladesh, Thailand, Singapore and Turkey launched an open campaign to offer their perspectives on current politics, society and culture.

I hadn't planned to see the Asia Art Now exhibit, sponsored by the Korean People's Artists Association, but was 'encouraged' to do so – by my boss – on that rare weekend off. Needless to say, I went.

The trip snowballed into a rewarding afternoon, and I marveled not just at the aesthetics, but also some of the politically charged messages that reflect at Asia's current situation.

Entitled 'Globalization and Locality,' the exhibition ran through December 17, 2006 at three different venues in South Korea, and will be open at

the Arario Beijing from January 20 to March 4. It focuses on the significance of artistic reflection of Asia's locality as a response to the ever-accelerating movement of globalization.

The exhibition is an opportunity for artists to share their vision for the future. Asia Art Now invited artists from across Asia who have found a way to express a variety of perceptions on locality into their works.

A total of 35 Korean artists and 17 other Asian artists and groups are presenting works that range from flash animations and video installations to sculptures, paintings and photographs.



Asia

Asian artists ref



Sunday by Tang Maohong



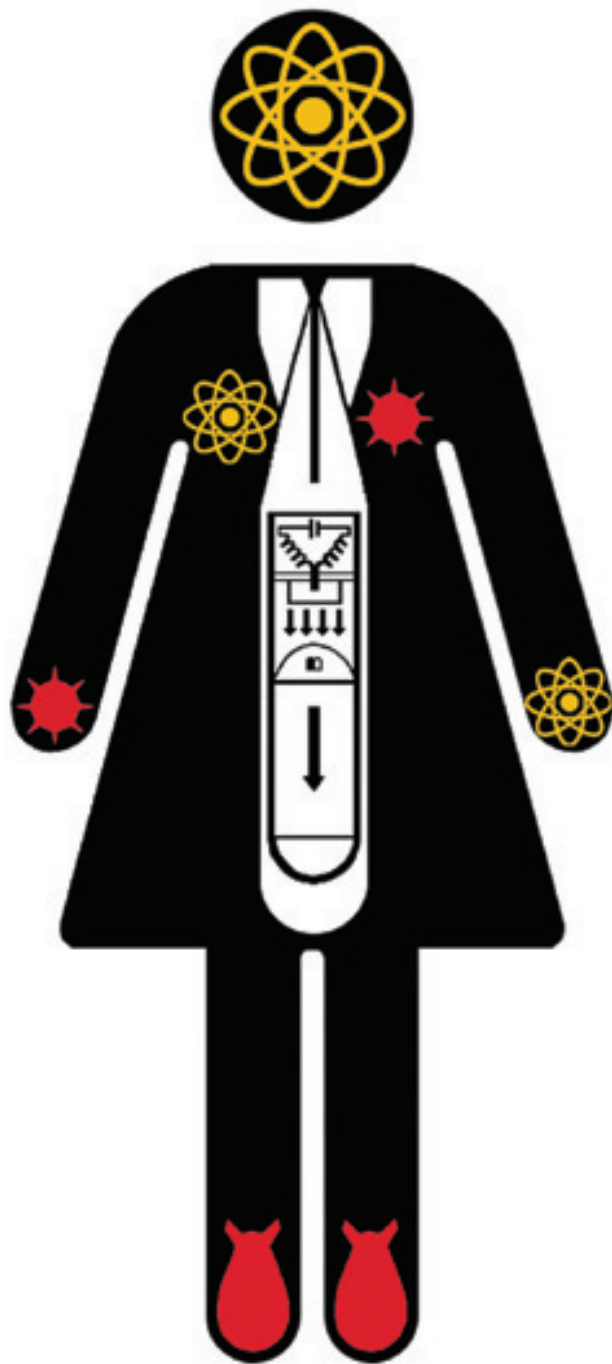
Shinzuku Homeless Project Group



Koizumi Junichiro is Governor of Nippon, USA by Satoh Toshio



Tatto performance by Lee Shi-Yi



Taiwan

The initial hook, upon entering the Arario gallery, was Chen Ching-Yao's *Bubble Task Force*, which portrays a gang of young girls dressed in Japanese World War II service uniforms. With colorful bubbles flying over them and toy guns in their hands, the Japanese 'soldiers' celebrate victory, an ironic image of the Japanese army during the war.

One might say that with digital cameras practically everywhere around us, photographs can be taken, viewed and shared at any time. However, the perspective on these works by contemporary Taiwanese artists is

rooted in the understanding that photography is an art that uses images – as opposed to saying that photography is a kind of artistic medium.

The works tackle various concepts, combined with techniques of digital technology, a showcase of new trends in Taiwanese contemporary art.

Most of the participating Taiwanese artists are young, and distinguish themselves through their emphasis on creativity. Besides Chen Ching-yao, other artists include Lee Shih-yi, who created scripted plays and tattoo performances.

Japan

Being a fan of Japanese culture

and tradition, I enjoyed how the art made references to pop culture movies like *Battle Royale* and *Manga* stereotypes in a range of school uniforms. Most of all, I was awed by the use of traditional techniques with a modern twist.

It was clear that history and current events weighed heavily on the minds of the artists. They tackled today's most pressing issues through paintings, photographs, video and sculptures. The title of Japanese artist Satoh Toshio's work says it all: *'Koizumi Junichiro is Governor of Nippon, USA.'* His work is a critique of the close ties between the US and Japan, using the images of US Pres-

ident George W. Bush and former Japanese Prime Minister Koizumi.

South Korea

For Korean artists, art has become a vehicle to criticize current political figures. Lee Myoung-bok, for an instance, created *Wanted*, resembling an old 'Wild West' poster with the face of US President George W. Bush. The poster proclaims that Bush is wanted "for crimes against the planet."

War and violence is another recurring theme in this exhibition, as seen in Lee Si-woo's photograph *The Mine*, and Lee Sang-ho's poster *Opposing the Patriot Missile*.

Art Now

Reflect on localization and globalization



X-man ... Devotion to the Warfare of Mankind, Lee Boorok

Photos provided by Arario Beijing

Other Korean works such as Lee Jong-gu's framed photograph *In Daechu-ri 1* take a more political flavor.

Lee, famous for his peasant paintings, effectively portrays the internal agony and pain of peasants, incorporating day-to-day details such as sacks, tables, and farming tools through his brush strokes. For as long as 20 years, he has tried to represent South Korea's rural community, which to this day continues to undergo rapid change.

From serious political topics, it was a breath of fresh air to move on to reflections on life. Sculptor Gu Bonju casts the face of a man in

bronze and iron for his *Eating Salt for 30 Years*, which portrays arduous, contemporary lives.

Photographer Kang Hong-goo, who uses cartoon characters and landscapes to illustrate and parody the often-absurd existence, has two pieces included in the show.

One of the show's most haunting pictures, *Jirisan 3* by Kong Kipyung, presents the portrait of an Asian woman in semi-profile, with her eyeballs digitally altered into viscous goo.

Rather less subtle but still quite beautifully haunting and provocative was Kim Gunsook's *Tetris-continue*, which explores the

relations between everyday life and urban construction.

Kim portrays her remote hometown that will soon undergo a face change in the name of urban development. "I like drawing the everyday life of average people. That's my original drive for painting. It's also a good way of recording precious memories of the city," Kim said.

The Chinese Mainland

Tang Maohong, representing the Chinese mainland, was my last stop that afternoon.

I'm not a fan of video installations, only because to view them,

you usually have to be seated the entire time. However, there are always exceptions.

I particularly liked his *Sunday*, which features the contents of five channels shown in a loop, with bizarre themes and images linking them in a pattern.

Viewer's choice and beliefs are crucial in interpreting Tang's work. Without being didactic or overtly political, Tang questions his viewers' various beliefs.

"The choice you take at the beginning will take you to your own garden," Suk Sung-suk, a Korean media artist, said after seeing Tang's *Sunday*.



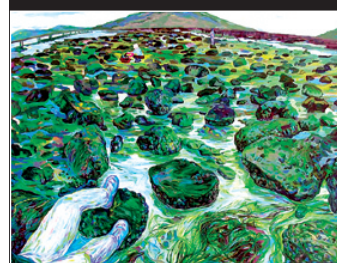
Making My Position by Seol Chongsik



Our Land We Live by Grim Factory



Tetris-continue by Kim Gunsook



The Appearance of A Slippery Something by Bang Jeongah



Jirisan 3 by Kong Kipyung

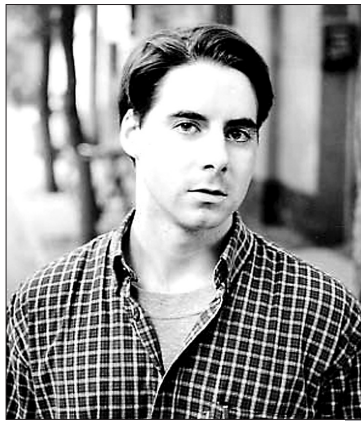
Arario Beijing

Arario Beijing is a branch of Korea's Arario, which was inaugurated in 1989 and has strived to host some of the most cutting edge exhibitions in Asia. Beijing's Arario was established in December 2005 with the intention of introducing international contemporary art to audiences in China.

Asia Art Now

Where: Jiuchang Art Complex, Beihuqu Lu, Anwaibeiyuan Jie, Chaoyang
When: until March 4
Admission: free
Tel: 5202 3800
Website: arariobeijing.com

Oracle Bones



First things first. What are these bone thingies?

The 'oracle bones' of Hessler's title, found in profusion in and around the ancient city of Anyang, date from the second millennium BC and are incised with divination texts written in the first known form of what we now call Chinese. When the diviners applied searing heat to the bones – many were in fact the flat lower carapace of tortoises – the surfaces cracked, yielding patterns that predicted the chance of success for a given enterprise. Though the inscriptions are often brief and fragmentary, they are a source of passionate interest to scholars, both Chinese and Western. They also provide a rich metaphor for the search for meaning in China's past – and for prognostications about its future.

– Jonathan Spence, *The New York Times*

We're always being told how fast China is changing. Isn't ancient history just, well ... ancient history?

Hessler is surely right about the echoes that still vibrate from China's unvarnished past. The bones, like the country, need endless deciphering. But as an 80-year-old Chinese scholar, who suffered humiliations of his own, says to Hessler, there is little point in trying to settle old scores. "The things that people said and wrote in those days don't count," he explains. "The ones who criticized me the harshest, I hardly remember them. I don't hate them."

– Jonathan Spence, *The New York Times*

Forgive and forget. It seems like a challenging book to have written. I wonder what the key is to this extraordinary survey of contemporary China?

Perspective is the key ... with its artificial boomtowns ('designed to flourish and then fade, like a flower that blooms only once'), its migrants and refugees, its persecuted minorities, its febrile, rootless, restless, endlessly inquiring

By Peter Hessler
300pp, John Murray, 230 yuan (The Beijing Bookworm)
Time Magazine's 'Best Asian books of 2006' generously included three titles set in the Middle Kingdom, which confirms that China, and those who seek to explain her, are now guaranteed list-makers. Topping the ten was the familiar name of Peter Hessler, Beijing correspondent for the *New Yorker*, with his second book *Oracle Bones*. Hessler's first work, *River Town*, was a best selling memoir of his time teaching English in Sichuan Province, and was popular both with audiences abroad looking to learn more about life in China and those already here wondering how they can get their own China story published. *Oracle Bones* is a more ambitious project where Hessler tries to link China's disparate past and present by meeting some remarkable characters and following several of his old pupils to see what life holds for them in today's China.

workforce. Young people confide the stories of their lives to Hessler. An older generation tells him things they could remember and things they would like to forget. His chapter on the destruction of Beijing is really quite unforgettable.

– Hilary Spurling, *Guardian*

I hear it took four years to write the book. Any structural problems?

Hessler must have spent a good deal of mental energy developing a structure for his book, determined to strike an aesthetic balance between the personal lives of the individual Chinese whose stories he tells and the physical and historical spaces they inhabit. He achieved this by constructing a narrative scaffolding some readers may initially find distracting. But rest assured: everything soon falls into place.

– Jonathan Spence, *The New York Times*

Don't be distracted by the scaffolding? I'll try not to be. But does his scaffolding ever, er ... fall down?

Unlike *River Town*, which was serene, unpretentious and deeply ordinary, Peter aimed for a grand narrative in this new book. He tried to fit his stories into the larger socio-political back-

grounds, but failed miserably.

– Rui Zhu, *Amazon.com reviewer*

Being a journalist in Beijing is great, I hear. Why bother writing stories?

Oracle Bones confronts what is happening today in China on a quite different level from the journalistic news stories which, as Hessler says, tend to break sensationally but fizzle out "like splashes of foam on the surface of a massive sea change."

– Hilary Spurling, *Guardian*

Hey, I was in Beijing when he started writing this. Any mention of the hijinks on Sanlitun Nan Lu?

Expatriates barely get a look in. Most, though, will enjoy reading it – particularly those who lived in China during the period in question. He describes well the surreal atmosphere in the months following September 11, 2001, the occasion of the International Olympic Committee's visit to Beijing and the controversy surrounding the midair collision of a Chinese fighter jet and US spy plane over the South China Sea in April 2001.

– Fraser Newham, *Asia Times Online*

(By David Drakeford)

Local shelf

The Chan's Great Continent: China in Western Minds

By Jonathan D Spence
279pp, W W Norton & Company, 135 yuan

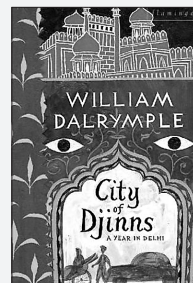
Distinguished Yale historian Jonathan D Spence examines the influence that China has long exercised on the Western imagination. Drawing on literary, historical, and travel writing from 14th century to the present, he shows how fabrications of medieval writers such as Marco Polo gave way to more factually minded reports from business travelers and diplomats. This turned again to the exoticism of poets such as Ezra Pound and Charles Baudelaire, and in our time, returned to the realism of writers such as Pearl S Buck and Edgar Snow. Spence's tour of these perceptions of China yields a vigorous and interesting book.

The Changing Face of Chinese Management (Working in Asia)

By Tang Jie
256pp, Routledge, 330 yuan

Chinese management has experienced a dramatic change in recent years. However, established ideas about Chinese management are often oversimplified or outdated. This book provides a much-needed, realistic and up-to-date portrait of Chinese business today, and of how it has changed over the last decade. It's a portrait that reveals an intriguing mixture of the old and the new, for while certain features can be traced deep into China's past, others have changed beyond recognition. New forms of enterprise and new ways of conducting business have emerged.

City of Djinns: A Year in Delhi



By William Dalrymple
253pp, Flamingo, 130yuan

Dalrymple's first book, *In Xanadu*, traversed thousands of miles, now he traverses thousands of years. In the course of 12 months in Delhi, he peels back the successive encrusting layers of history, using both material and human remains of each of the eight cities of Delhi, interlacing innumerable stories with the present and ending with the Delhi creation myth contained in the great Indian epic *The Mahabharata*.

Available:

Beijing Bookworm

Where: Building 4, Nan Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang

Tel: 6586 9507

(By Han Manman)



By Chu Meng

Lucky Street is an upscale business center combining restaurants, bars, cafes, teahouses, exclusive clubs and brand name shops. This cluster of European-style architecture is located in Beijing's fashionable Yansha Central Business District, next to

the new diplomatic complexes and Women's Street (Nuren Jie). Lucky Street is booming into a fashionable recreation center where you can have food from Italy and south Germany to India, Japan and China. For the next couple weeks, we will stun your palate with six surprises.

Lucky Street



Tuna salad in the Nashville Bar & Restaurant is only 40 yuan.

Photo by Tian Yufeng

Beer and cigar alcove

By Jackie Zhang

The decoration in Nashville will make you feel like you're entering a bar in Tennessee, a state in the southern USA. Red-brick walls, pictures of country music singers, wooden tables, chairs and a bar counter, all these will bring back memories

of youth when you went crazy for American country music.

Beer is the most important feature of the bar.

"We provide around 50 kinds of beer imported from all over the world," Chen Jie, the manager of the restaurant, said.

This is the only bar in the city

that serves Manchester, England's Boddingtons beer, the establishment's signature beer.

Another recommendation is Ireland's Guinness, black beer with a deep, bitter taste that turns sweet once it's in your mouth. Beers go for around 50 yuan.

Salad, steak and various snacks are served in case guests want to munch on something while drinking. Their tuna salad is only 40 yuan, while T-bone and rib-eye steaks are 138 yuan each.

The Nashville Bar also provides around 50-60 kinds of

cigars, so people who like cigars and whisky can drop by the bar after the end of a hard day at work.

Nashville Bar & Restaurant

Where: Zaoying Lu, Chaoyang

Open: 11am-3am next day

Tel: 5867 0298

Cost: 150 yuan per person



Leisurely world of teahouses

By Chu Meng

Where else can you enjoy a cup of Chinese tea and tea snacks if you've grown tired of the city's established teahouses? New establishments like Han Ming Xuan offer a nice break from the routine, and introduce you to the leisurely world of Beijing teahouses, where you can read, study or view art works displayed on the wall.

Located at the corner of Zaoying Lu and Liangmaqiao Lu, Han Ming Xuan offers the complete range of Chinese teas.

Deep, mellow and tasting of leather, smoke, damp wood and dirt, their Yunnan Pu'er tea is one of the better cups of tea I have had in my life.

Also try the bracing, metallic Tie Guanyin, the fragrant Wulong (oolong) or the incomparable Longjing (Dragon Well) green tea.

However, it's not the best idea to go there hungry, as many teahouses serve only light snacks like pumpkin seeds, nuts or dried fruit.

On the other hand, I'm finding my pot of Pu'er curiously fortifying,

despite not having eaten all day.

For my money, Han Ming Xuan is a fine place to try their impressive, heady brews. It's more economical if you go with other people, so you can share a pot of tea – and split the bill.

Han Ming Xuan

Where: Zaoying Lu, Chaoyang

Open: 11am-10pm

Tel: 5867 0208

Cost: 60 yuan per person.

(L) Han Ming Xuan's mixed fruit tea

Photo provided by Han Ming Xuan

German baked goodies

By Chu Meng

After searching high and low in Beijing, I've finally found a place that sells absolutely original German baked goods, particularly the bread I've been after.

The newly opened South German Bakery on Lucky Street offers a variety of European rye, wheat and white breads.

Those with a sweet tooth will

enjoy their pastries, but they also have the not-so-sweet variety if you want something 'tamer.'

Upstairs, you'll find Cafe Constance, which offers another culinary morale-booster: a solid western breakfast. Various set menus, ranging from 35-70 yuan, begin with coffee, fresh fruit, bread, unsweetened yogurt, eggs and bacon. Coffee drinks by the cup run from 24-35

yuan. This homey cafe is an ideal place to spend a relaxing morning.

South German Bakery

Where: Lucky Street B5+C5, No 29 Zaoying Road (next to 21st Century Center), Chaoyang

Open: 9am-9pm

Tel: 5867 0201

Cost: from 15 yuan

(R) South German Bakery's muffins
Photo provided by South German Bakery





Search for Beijing's 'Smiling Angel' launched

In order to promote the development of tourism and to celebrate the 2008 Olympics, the Chinese Communist Youth League's Beijing Committee and the Beijing Youth Daily Media Group are launching the 'Beijing 2006 Smiling Angel Competition' among the city's star-rated hotels.

Readers of Beijing Youth Daily and Beijing Today and netizens of ynet.com will get to choose the winner of the 'Smiling Angel' prize.

Beijing Youth Daily, Beijing Today, qianlong.com and ynet.com will give regular updates, in both Chinese and English, on the competition. Four-star or higher rated hotels are still welcome to join.

Today, we're introducing readers to the first group of candidates.



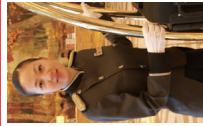
No 1. Chen Pei
(Housekeeping Department)



Chen works at Hotel Kunlun, impressing thousands of guests with his warm smile.



No 2. Zhang Hongxia
(Guest Relations Department)



Zhang loves her job as a bellhop, even though it can be tough. She is now regarded as a shining rainbow at Crowne Plaza.



No 3. Du Yi
(Service Department)



Du Yi has received many awards at Days Hotel and Suites. Do you know that this hard worker was once a factory worker?



No 4. Shao Haiyun
(Lobby Bar)



Smiling, for Shao, is a necessity. "Smiling is not only a way to express friendship, but also a way to connect with society," she said.



No 5. Chen Nan
(Customer Relations Department)



Every staff member of Hotel Chang Fu Gong dreams of hearing this line from customers: "Because of you, we've decided to stay here every time we're in town." If this is success, then Chen has, indeed, succeeded.



No 6. Huang Yan
(Hotel Café)



Every time you walk through her hotel and see an angel, you're looking at Huang Yan.



No 7. Su Yan
(Customer Relations Department)



No matter how busy she is, Su always has time to help customers with their needs.



No 8. Chen Kang
(Guest Relations Department)



Chen works at the reception desk and to guests, his smile is always a highlight of their day.



No 9. Liu Liming
(Front Desk)



"No matter how grumpy a customer is, a smile is always the waitress' best weapon!" No wonder Liu charms them all.



No 10. Zhang Yun
(Housekeeping Department)



Zhang, who is head of her building's housekeeping, knows how important a smile is to guests.



No 11. Zhao Xiaobin
(Customer Relations Department)



For the past 15 years, Zhao has been Jianguo Hotel's 'golden key' - providing service with his heart.



No 12. Li Jing
(Front Desk)



Li works at the Landmark's reception and everyday, kindly asks people, "Are you smiling today?"



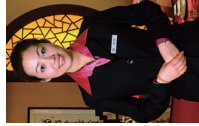
No 13. Ye Yuanyuan
(Hotel Lobby)



Your smile is a gift to everyone. Ye believes that if you give this gift to customers, they will give it back to you.



No 14. Shi Yue
(Service Department)



Shi is that energetic girl at Minzu Hotel, impressing everyone with her kind smile.



No 15. Meng Lingli
(Food and Beverage Department)



Meng began working at Tiantan Hotel in August 2005, and today has already won a number of the hotel's staff awards.



No 16. Li Fenglin
(Customer Relations Department)



Li warms every visitor at Debao Hotel with his warm smile.



No 17. Huang Yuanyuan
(Hotel Café)



Huang believes that a smile can bring happiness to others. In a way, a hotel staff's smiles are also its business advertisement.



No 18. Wu Songtao
(Hotel Lobby)



In Wu's experience, smiles are given by customers and fellow staff members - if you give them a smile first.



No 19. Song Weiwei
(Front Desk)



Song was once a World College Students sporting meet volunteer and is equally proud of her English language skills.



No 20. Chen Can
(Chinese Restaurant)



A staff member at the Taiwan Hotel, Chen is pretty, hardworking and most of all, never forgets to smile.



No 21. Wang Jiaming
(Customer Relations Department)



Wang has won his hotel's 'best employee' prize five times in seven years! His smile must be his secret weapon.



No 22. Gu Xuena
(Service Department)



From a shy girl to a leader, Gu knows how important a smile is. To her, it is an expression of kindness and hospitality.



No 23. Zhang Wei
(Hotel Lobby)



Everyone is learning English for the Olympics, but Zhang believes that smiling is also a powerful way of communicating.



Besides the 'Smiling Angel' awardee, winners will also be chosen for the Service Star and Special Award.

To vote by SMS:
Send N plus the number of your chosen Smiling Angel to 9638625 (China Mobile)
9608265 (China Unicom)
99638965 (PHS)

A Reader's Award will also be handed out: three winners will be chosen for the first prize (2,000 yuan); ten winners for the second prize (500 yuan); and fifty winners for the third prize (100 yuan).

(同星级酒店排名不分先后)

Major Sponsor: Chinese Communist Youth League Beijing Committee and the Beijing Youth Daily
Support: Beijing Youth Daily and Beijing Today

Minor Sponsor: Beijing Youth Media GroupMedia
Tel: 65901950; 65902061; 136 0126 4417; 65902513

Online Support: Qianlong.com, Ynet.com

Controlling the inner demons

"There are billions of people in the world, yet I feel like I'm alone. I try to do everything right, but everyone just wrongs me, so I lash out in rage, but what I say is never heard," one blogger wrote.

There are millions of people like 'the blogger' who grapple with depression. Negative feelings need a positive way to be vented, and this issue will focus on my own story and provide several ideas for how to vent depression.

When I looked out at the bleak, January sky and heard Lady and Bird's "Suicide is Painless" booming from my earphones, sadness, frustration, anxiety, fear, doubts and depression grabbed me while my guard was down.

But no one else can drag me or anyone else out of the dumps. Pulling ourselves out of a low-spell is something we can only do on our own.

Life is a roller coaster: to ride it, you have to go with its twists and turns or you'll fall out. Depression is a rapidly growing problem among young office workers.

Beijing Today lists down a few ways to help release negative pressure before it becomes a danger.



Racecars can help you outrun your depression – if you can afford it!

By He Jianwei

If you're trapped inside this winter with nowhere to go, locked up in office or home, here are a few ways to keep your inner fire from burning out.

Get out of the house

"Get some fresh air!" When we felt down in childhood, our parents usually drove us outdoors, but what can we do as adults to keep from going stir-crazy?

1. Drive a racecar

Racecars are most men's choice for venting their frustrations. If you take a look at car exhibitions, you'll usually find more men than women – except of course for the beautiful models.

However, some modern ladies have a profound interest in driving racecars too. They enjoy the feeling of speeding recklessly. They'd probably kill people if they drove like that in the mornings.

Racecar clubs are the best choice for people who would like to experience the excitement of speed and outrun their depression. It's safer than high speed driving on San Huan, but it will take a lot of money if you want to try this hobby.

2. Rock climbing and bungee jumping

Young people thirsty for adventure are crazy about extreme sports, like rock climbing and bungee jumping.

When you reach the top and look

back on how far you've climbed, you'll be proud of yourself. To hell with depression! If I can climb a cliff of solid rock, I can overcome anything.

Extreme sports are always risky. Conquering fears gives us a sense of accomplishment, and accomplishment can counteract depression.

3. Fencing or boxing

Aggressiveness is considered part of men's nature and the embodiment of wildness in a woman. Beating the hell out of someone else is great exercise and a way to let out pent-up anger and frustration.

Of course, beating the hell out of random strangers or family members is a sign of more problems than depression!

Fencing and boxing clubs offer the rat race a chance to let out that fury in a controlled environment, and the clubs are becoming increasingly popular with the more aggressive.

Punch them out, wipe yourself off, and go home relaxed!

4. Dance

Dancing in clubs is still fashionable – anyone who's been to one of Beijing's clubs can tell you that. The noisy music, the rotating lights and the crowds of people will make your body tingle and forget about life's problems.

Keep out the sorrows and keep on dancing!



Punch him out! Watch your head!



Click your mouse to torture the mosquito.

Stay in your house

If you're as quiet as a mouse and outdoor activities are too much for you to stomach, don't worry, there are still plenty of ways to vent depression indoors.

1. Dance

It's dance again! Don't be so surprised.

To dance with strangers may be awkward, but if you do it alone in your house, it can be a way to exercise your whole body.

All you need is music to move to. If you can get lost in the rhythm, all your other frustrations will melt away.

2. Play online games

We always complain that computers gobble up our time, but they can still offer a way to reach out to others.

Online gaming is popular with young people and offers a way to escape depression. You can try some of the games listed below and decide whether or not they work.

1) Torture the mosquito

This game gives you five ways to torture a noisy mosquito. You could swing a flyswatter at the mosquito, use a clamp, spit at it, fart at it and spray it. The game is controlled with five buttons. (51release.com/game/game_zhemowenzi.htm)

2) Shoot the wine bottles

The goal of this game is to destroy everything and vent your rage. It has three stages. The first is to shoot nine wine bottles: just aim and click the mouse! The second is to spray the office with machinegun fire to destroy photocopiers, computers and printers. In the final stage, you have to use a bomb to blow up a car.

(51release.com/game/game_dajiuping.htm)

3. Writing something

Telling others about your problems is a good way to release them. If you are alone in your house, the only person you can tell them to is yourself.

There's a wall on the Internet for posting messages about your anxiety, depression and frustration (51release.com/wall). Of course, some words on the wall are just foul language, which isn't always a good way to vent your depression.

The other option is to write a blog.

Send us your discounts & offers.

Email us: bjtoday@ynet.com or call: 6590 2626

ADVERTISE IN
BEIJING TODAY

PLACE YOUR ADVERT
NOW AND GET INSTANT
RESULTS!

Call: Jian Zhong 139 0135 4788
Xiao'ang 133 8106 4865



Tell your inner demons to go to hell!

CFP Photo

By Gan Tian

Where have all the backpacks gone in Beijing? My colleague Tiffany was curious about this since she's decided to move. To find the answer, I've dedicated this week's shopping page to hiking bags just for her!

Where have all the backpacks gone?

1,000+ yuan

M Hardware Virtuosa Girl's Bag

Put a hiking staff in the side pocket, a snowboard in the rear and tuck your boots into the bottom. If you lug this bag around, you'll never have to worry about getting fat. It's specially designed for girls, but a little bit expensive. Hmm ... but if it can help to lose weight, it's worth it!

Available: Sanfo, F1, Golden Bridge Building (Jinzhiquiao Dasha), Section A, Jianguomen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang

Price: 3,383 yuan

Arc' Teryx Acrux 40L Waterproof

Quality brands always have high prices, but good warranties. Arc' Teryx may be the most fashionable outdoor sports brand. If you already wear hats and clothes with the Arc' Teryx logo, now you can carry a matching bag! It's a great way to wear your money.

Available: Sanfo, No 1, Nongzhanguan Nan Lu (South Gate of Chaoyang Park), Chaoyang

Price: 4,100 yuan



M Hardware Virtuosa Girl's Bag

Arc' Teryx Acrux 40L Waterproof

How to choose a backpack

A good backpack can be your travel partner on trips through the world's less-traveled roads – places best explored with only what you can carry.

When selecting a pack, consider the **terrain, activity and weight or volume of the load** you'll generally carry.

Types of Backpacks

Daypacks (15-35L): These small packs have little or no internal frame to support loads, the weight is entirely supported by shoulder straps.

Alpine Packs (35-55L): These mid-size packs usually have some internal support and a wide belt to help bear some weight.

Backpacking Packs (55-75L): This size is designed for multi-day trips.

Expedition Packs (75-100L): The colossal capacity of these packs makes them ideal for extended travel and full expeditions.

Design: Top or Panel Loading

Panel-loading, or front-loading packs allow easy access to your gear, but those convenient zippers can be weak points that let in rain and snow.

Top-loading packs are stronger than front-loaders, but you have to take everything out to reach whatever is at the bottom. The design is still popular on tough terrain, because it is very durable and can stow a lot of gear.

500-1,000 yuan

Vaude Karakorum Expedition Panniers

To use this one, you'll need to kick off your girlfriend. It goes over the rear luggage rack on your bicycle. The Vaude Karakorum panniers in the back are a bit heavy, but with this pack, you'll have everything you need to stay safe while you enjoy a bicycle trip!

Available: shop34028232.taobao.com

Price: 764 yuan

ACME Super Explorer

'Super Explorer' sounds like Superman or some kind of cartoon hero here to save the earth. In reality, it's just a bag, but the design makes it look like some magical tool, and like Uncle Ben told Spiderman, 'With great power comes great responsibility.'

Available: Laote Outdoors, No 34, South of the road, Yumin Dong Lu, Beisanhuan Dong Lu, Chaoyang

Price: 572 yuan



Vaude Karakorum Expedition Panniers



ACME Super Explorer

Below 500 yuan

One Polar 50L

Tiffany picked this one. I think she likes it because the bright yellow color is so feminine. Its pockets are 'endless' (I love this word)! It looks nice on women because it does not look bulky.

Available: F/1, No 1, Dongsikuaiyu Bei Jie, Tiyuguan Lu, Chongwen

Price: 260 yuan

One Polar 55L

I don't like this one because it doesn't have as many pockets as the previous one but it's more expensive! How? A pocket is equal to ten yuan. Doesn't the seller know? For someone who wants simplicity, it might be a good choice.

Available: No 85, Tiyuguan Xilu, Chongwen

Price: 300 yuan



One Polar 50L



One Polar 55L

Photos by Gan Tian

CFP Photo

If you want to show off your fashion store, have a great collection of fashion accessories and knick-knacks or just want to recommend the best places around town to find fun and flashy items, drop me a line at gantian@ynet.com or call 6590 2527.

Nutrition through a straw

A fruit and veggie detox diet

By Annie Wei

Juicing a mix of fresh celery, carrots and ginger has become the first step in my morning routine. For three weeks, I've found myself falling in love with purchasing apples, pears, kiwi fruits, celery, watermelons for cleaning and juicing.

Sure, everyone knows the benefits of fresh juice, but what made me take the plunge into the juicing world?

Blogs!

Making fresh vegetable and fruit juice is an alternative health trend among Chinese food bloggers.

In Sina.com's food column, a vegetarian blog (blog.sina.com.cn/u/1226967121) has been a fan favorite: it's maintained by a couple who records their veggie diet and quotes from articles highlighting the benefits of fresh juice and a detox diet. Responses to the blog are overwhelmingly positive. Many netizens share their experience, and other bloggers echo their claims of how a detox diet has improved their bodies.

A Beijing blogger claimed his wife's skin 'glowed' after drinking fresh juice every morning for a month. Another said it soothed the winter dryness and worked like a laxative.

Another woman even claimed her and

her family's long-term diseases were cured through juice and diet.

Amazing diet

Detox diets are popular world-over, and spas, websites and books have popped up to support the trend. The diets vary from group to group, but the main idea is to restrict intake to raw vegetables, fruits and water and without any cooked food, meat, fish, alcohol, coffee or tea for three to 10 days. The duration can increase depending on the dieter's situation. Beginners can try it for only one day, and gradually increase to more.

Personally, I've found fresh juice gives me more energy and mental clarity when working on late-night article re-writes.

I've only tried the detox diet on a Saturday when there was no work and no plans to meet friends for brunch, coffee or a night out. It seems too difficult to try at other times given my weekly workload

is too packed to prepare juice. During the weekdays, I have rice and meat for lunch in the company's cafeteria, sometimes with a cup of café au lait or latte Macchiato. I have wine when dining with friends.

Normally, I don't eat fruit in the winter. They're great, but fresh juice in the morning is even better. For me, a glass

normally contains celery, apple, carrots, cucumbers and ginger, or watermelon and tomato.

Instead of dipping a lemon in the water, I juice lemon and make warm, lemon-honey water. I never have headaches, and my skin seems like it's improved a bit, and I feel clear and energetic in the morning. The best part is, I feel more relaxed when I need to use the toilet.

Lingering suspicions

Last Saturday, when teaming up with friends from my high school's English club, I told them that I was addicted to juicing and detox diets, and to reading these blogs. I think I forgot to mention I only tried it once.

Their response was, fresh juice? Yes! Detox diets? Nope! Making fresh juice at home? Too much work.

Tian, 27, a married

woman with a great career, didn't believe in dieting or fashion either. Honestly, I think she's a much bigger size than she was in high school, but I may just be bitter about her salary. She poked at her stomach and joked about eating like a pig, but her appetite did make me wonder whether my stomach is shrinking and I can't get the nutrition I need.

Li Jianguo, a Chinese acupuncture doctor from Beijing Chinese Traditional Medical College, said he didn't believe in it. "I've never heard of it, and I think a balanced diet is the key to health."

Vivi Han, 24, a woman Yoga teacher, said she didn't encourage her students to only eat vegetables and fruits. "For people whose diet is mostly meat and greasy food, a detox diet could be very effective. For people starved for nutrition, it might not be a good idea."

Maybe I'm hooked on *paidu* – detox in Chinese.

The idea is that all foods have a certain 'poison' that needs detoxification and a cleansing regimen. There's something alluring about the idea that fruits, raw vegetables and fresh juice have the lowest levels of 'poison' and can help to improve our health and body.

Still, I don't think I've overdone it. I don't think it's harmful

for only one or two days, especially on the weekends.

Good, but not enough

Wang Tiecheng, a nutritionist from Bosfon International Organization, helps people who are suffering from poor health. Although Wang agrees there is something reasonable in the detox diet, such as how fruits, vegetables and fresh juice can help to purge impurities from the body, relying on these foods exclusively can't meet our nutritional needs.

According to nutrition science, people need to eat a variety of foods, especially in China, where rice is a staple for most.

More and more city people are ending up unhealthy. They lack energy, get allergies and feel fatigued. Wang says his preferred prescription is a well-balanced diet.

"I've found most unhealthy people don't eat breakfast – especially young people, who think skipping breakfast isn't a big deal. The working class finds themselves too busy to prepare breakfast too," Wang says.

"But breakfast provides us 70 percent of the energy we need in the morning."

"Only drinking fresh juice for breakfast doesn't jibe with nutrition science, either," Wang said. "We know juice can't provide all the energy and nutrition you need to get through the morning."

Blogger tips for juicing

Whether you want to detox or not, fresh juice is always a great supplement to your diet.

1. Buy fruits and vegetables at a wholesale market or morning market in your neighborhood. Normally, goods at a wholesale market are much cheaper. Apples, for example, cost only 2 yuan per kg. In a supermarket, they may cost 10-15 yuan per kg, with organic ones even more expensive.

2. Some bloggers prefer cleaning fruits and vegetables to get rid of fertilizers and pesticides since organic products are too expensive.

3. Since fresh apple juice oxidizes quickly, bloggers suggest adding lemon juice to preserve it.

4. Bloggers say the Phillips juicer isn't bad, and costs around 1,000 yuan now. Some bloggers said it's still too expensive, and you can still juice with a local brand blender (200-300 yuan). Blend the fruits or vegetables first, then filter them through a sheet of cheesecloth. You can also use washable cotton cloth – just tell the salesperson you're looking for *baazi* cloth. One cloth shouldn't cost more than 2.5 yuan.

CFP Photo

Healthy and safe travel in China

By David Drakeford
What health problems might I encounter in China?
Injuries

Injuries are the leading cause of preventable death in travelers. An estimated five million people lost their lives from injuries in 2000, and over 90 percent of these were in developing countries.

Be aware that driving a car or riding a motorbike around China yourself may be more dangerous due to unfamiliarity with the roads, traffic regulations and conditions. Buses, taxis and particularly motor-

bike taxis are also far from flawlessly safe. If possible, travel during daylight, in good weather conditions and encourage your driver not to speed and cut people off.

Travelers' diarrhea

Every year, an estimated 10 million international tourists develop diarrhea, which makes it the most common illness among travelers. Ninety percent are resolved within one week, but it's never a pleasant experience and extra care should be taken when traveling in a foreign country.

- Avoid eating food and drink bought from street vendors

- Avoid raw or undercooked meat and seafood and raw fruit unless you wash or peel it yourself

Mild diarrhea can be left to run its course. Rehydration by drinking pure water is recommended. If the diarrhea is prolonged, then seek advice from a local doctor. If the condition persists despite treatment, then you should consider heading for a Western hospital, perhaps in Beijing, to be treated for a possible parasitic infection.

Malaria

Malaria, and a range of other diseases,

is transmitted by infected mosquitoes, which usually bite at nighttime. If you're outside after dark, then consider wearing a long-sleeved shirt, long pants and a hat. Apply insect repellent to any exposed skin. You may want to bring a mosquito net and spray repellent to use inside.

Altitude sickness

If you visit the Himalayan Mountains or the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, try to ascend gradually to allow your body to adjust to the high altitude. You should also use sunblock as the risk of sunburn is greater at high elevations.

What preventative measures can I take against sickness?

- Wash your hands regularly
- Only drink bottled or boiled water, or use your own purification methods
- Keep your feet clean and dry. Don't go barefoot
- Use latex condoms to reduce the risk of HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases

ted diseases

What vaccines should I take to prepare for travel in China?

Unfortunately, there's no definitive answer. You should arrange an appointment with a doctor who can discuss your medical history and planned travel destinations for you.

Bear in mind that some vaccines should

be taken four to six weeks before travel. You might want to consider protection against Hepatitis A and malaria for the south of China.

What should I have in my aid kit?

Basic first aid kits are available in many sporting good stores. More adventurous travelers can buy advanced medical kits and emergency equipment (one such

store is adventuremedicalkits.com). When checking a kit or preparing your own, consider the following items:

- Insect repellent containing DEET
- Sunscreen
- Oral rehydration solution packets
- Basic first aid items (bandages, gauze, antiseptic and scissors)
- Antibacterial hand wipes

What should I know about traveling with children?

Parents should educate themselves on specific issues that apply to their children.

Diarrhea and dehydration present a higher risk for children. Try to ensure they keep their hands clean and away from their mouths.

Also, carry oral rehydration solution packets in case of event of dehydration from

diarrhea, vomiting or other circumstances.

Carry your medicine in childproof containers.

Do I need travel insurance?

If you don't have insurance, you should seriously consider getting some – particularly if you intend to do risky activities like horse riding or mountain climbing. There are a bewildering number of brokers and policies out there.

To get a recommendation, you could ask your health care provider. You could also seek advice from friends or post a question on an internet forum. If several people report having successfully made a claim from a company, that's worth taking into account.

It's always sensible to read the fine print of your policy carefully and ask questions if you are unsure of anything. Check

whether your policy covers:

- Accidents and legal expenses resulting from them
- Dangerous sports
- Evacuation – an airlift or emergency air travel could leave you in debt for years
- High-cost room rates and doctor consultation – first-class hospitals in China charge first-class rates

What organizations are there I should know about?

International SOS (internationalsos.com)

International SOS offers comprehensive 24-hour physician-backed medical and security assistance, for which members pay a fee. Membership provides access

to safety travel advisories, pre-travel itinerary-based recommendations, and computerized medical records.

World Health Organization (who.int)

The World Health Organization has 193 member states including China. Their website can give you up-to-date reports on

disease outbreaks, specific conditions and other information.

What can my embassy help me?

Different embassies will have their own policies but it's likely they will be able to:

- Visit you in the hospital
- Inform friends and relatives

- Help you with translation of documents and doctor consultation

Don't assume they will:

- Pay hospital bills or demand payment from your insurance company
- Offer legal advice
- Store your belongings

What are some popular hospitals in Beijing?

Beijing International SOS

Tel: 6462 9112

International standard clinic;

24-hour call center; emergency evacuation service.

Beijing United Family Hospital and clinics

Tel: 6433 3960

International standard hospital net-

work; travel medicine; vaccinations and check-ups.

Is there a 24-hour medical emergency number in China?

British citizens can call their consular

duty officer on 139 010 1496.

American citizens can call their embassy 24 hours a day on 6532 3831.

For other nationalities please enquire at your embassy.



CFP Photo



These months, most of the northern hemisphere is shivering – bundled up in down jackets and gloves to keep warm. If you're tired of the heavy clothes and cold, head south to the tropics for a release. A Thailand spa might give you the physical and mental comfort General Winter denies his troops.

Over a decade ago, few people knew what a

spa was, and fewer had ever experienced one. Today, 'spas' have become a major draw for tourists around the globe, and especially to those bound for Thailand. There are thousands of places in the country that offer spa facilities.

Thai spas have an endless array of soothing herbal remedies, traditional and Western treatments,

as well as different levels of luxury, price and value. Most cities offer amazing spa services in luxurious Spa Hotels.

'Destination spas,' a kind of combination resort-spa, are popping up all over Thailand. Visitors go to follow a treatment program to slim down, relax, detoxify or increase their energy levels.

Mandara Spa in Bangkok

'Mandara' refers to an ancient Sanskrit myth: the quest to discover the elixir of eternal youth. It's the largest operator of Asian tropical garden spas in hotels and resorts in Southeast Asia.

Its famous Coffee Scrub is made from locally grown Thai coffee beans and natural, volcanic pumice. Mandara's original recipe provides a stimulating and refreshing body cleansing. A body rub of fresh carrots is applied to condition the skin to rejuvenate it and arouse the senses.

Freshly picked tropical fruits are combined with wild honey and pure, natural, essential oils to nourish and hydrate the skin in a Cocktail Wrap. People with oily skin can try the Elemis SOS Purifying Facial. It helps absorb excess sebum, and regulates and balances the skin.

Location:

The Mandara Spa has several franchises throughout Thailand. Its Bangkok one is located at the Krungthep Bridge, No 257 Charoen Nakhon Road.

Spas

A tour of exclusive tropical resorts

Grande Spa at the Sheraton Grande Sukhumvit

The Grande offers head-to-toe relaxation and a chance to indulge in special treatments designed to 'wash away' the pain and stress of work. Most treatments take less than an hour.

This writer recommends The Dead Sea Mud Wrap Treatment and Massage. The hour-and-ten-minute process covers your body with magnesium-enriched mud, Dead Sea minerals and essential oils.

The mud wrap is beneficial for muscle ache, blood flow, tissue regeneration and peeling away the years. It also purifies the skin by removing excess oils.

Location:

Sheraton Grande Sukhumvit, No 250 Sukhumvit Rd, Bangkok
Tel: +66-2649 8888
Fax: +66-2649 8000

Devarana Spa at Dusit Thani Hotel

The Devarana Spa at Dusit Thani Hotel, Bangkok, is famous among spa fans. The name 'Devarana' comes from Thai Sanskrit meaning 'garden in heaven.' Inspired by its name, the Devarana Spa strives to excite the senses.

An herbal steam bath is offered in all guest rooms. The steam bath is prepared from lemon leaves, coffee and ginger; it helps open your pores to prepare your body for spa treatment and remove skin cutin.

Devarana offers private treatment in suites for massage, water therapy, floral bath, facial and body care – the most popular. Guests can also enjoy another therapy: facial care combined with body care. The styles of massage offered include Swedish massage, aromatic detoxifying massage and reflexology foot massage.

Spas aren't designed just for women. Men can also choose special therapies in the Devarana Spa.

Location:

946 Rama IV Rd, Bangkok, Thailand
Tel: +66-2236 9999 ext 2301
Fax: +66-2636 3596

Anne Se'monin Spa at Hotel Sofitel Silom Bangkok

Anne Se'monin, who combined trace elements with essential oils in spa therapy, created this spa.

Its exclusive massage and treatments are famous. Two therapists working together in rhythmic harmony. The massage blends five styles: Japanese Shiatsu, Hawaiian Lomi Lomi, Swedish, Balinese and Thai.

A Cleansing Facial purifies, rejuvenates and nourishes your skin to brighten and balance your complexion.

The natural exfoliating peel removes dull surface cells, and is followed by a purifying steam, extractions, an aromatherapy massage, and a mineral or cream mask custom blended to meet your skin's needs.

Location:

188 Silom Rd, Bangkok, Bangkok
Tel: +66-2238 1991
Fax: +66-2238 1988

Tantara Health Spa at Pathumwan Princess Hotel

Tantara means 'river stream' in Thai, representing the rich, natural and refreshing water of life. Its holistic treatments are famous for helping people balance their bodies and minds.

Several spa programs are strongly recommended in Tantara Spa. 'Tantara Lady' is a treatment that combines sea algae or a sea salt scrub with an aroma mud body wrap and a body massage.

'Spa Interlude' combines traditional Thai massage with back and shoulder massage, and follows it up with foot care, a relaxing massage and a deluxe pedicure and 'one spa cuisine.'

The Tantara Health Spa is a member of the International Spa Association. Its serene and tranquil environment provides comfort for enjoying your spa treatment with traditional Thai hospitality.

Location:

8th floor, Pathumwan Princess Hotel, 444 Phavathai Rd, Wangmai, Pathumwan, Bangkok

(By Jackie Zhang)

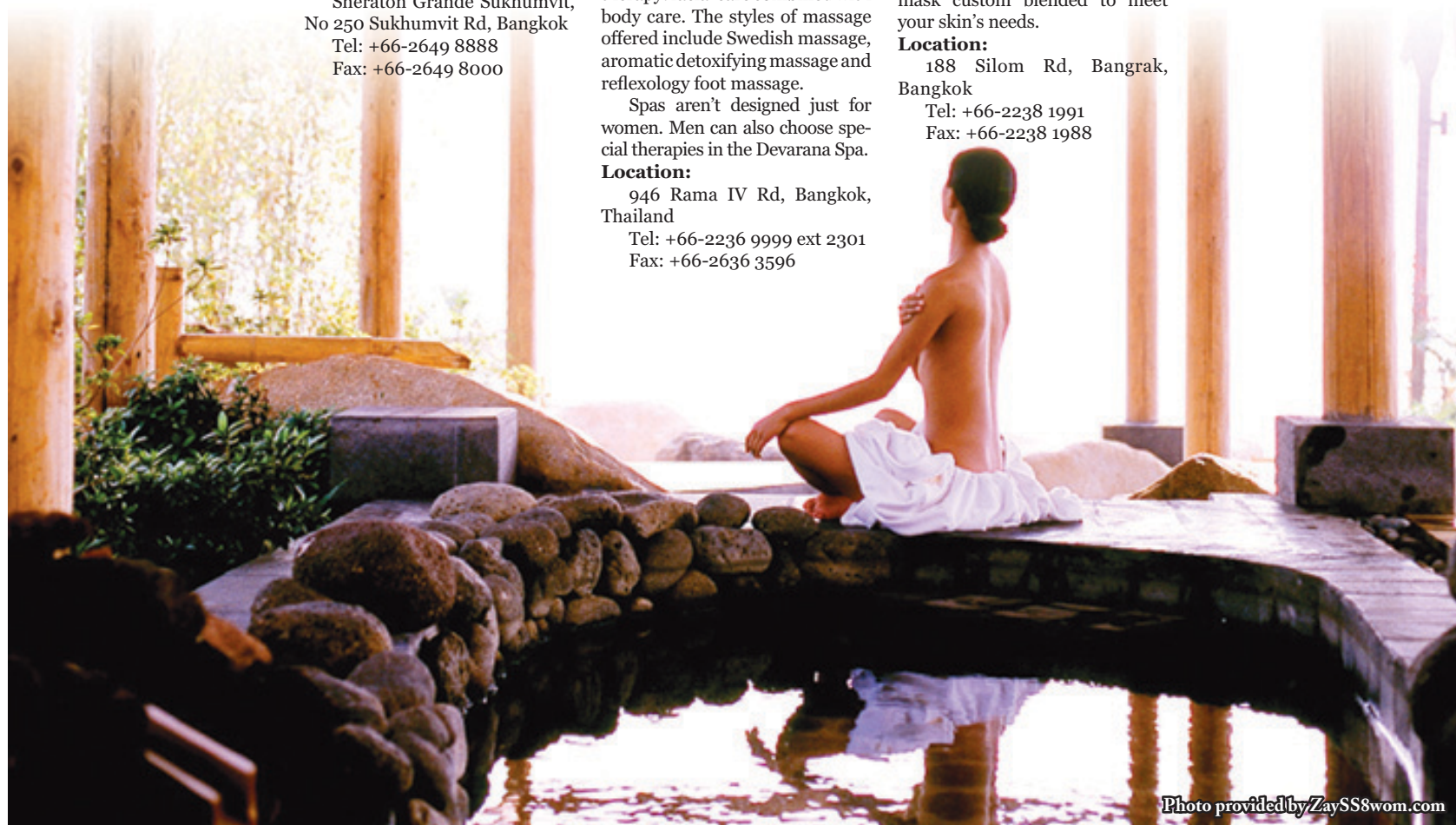
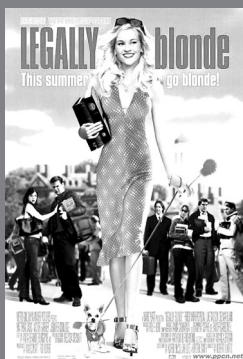


Photo provided by ZaySS8wom.com

**Starring:**

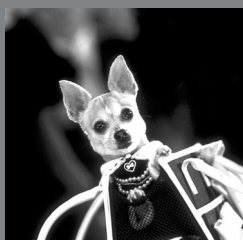
Reese Witherspoon,
Luke Wilson,
Selma Blair,
Matthew Davis

Director:

Robert Luketic

Synopsis:

Based upon the novel of the same title by Amanda Brown, a young blonde ⁽¹⁾ woman, Elle, is dumped ⁽²⁾ by her boyfriend, Warner, when he goes to Harvard Law School. To show him she's more than just a dumb blonde, she enrolls in its law school herself, eventually taking on a big murder case in Beverly Hills.



Legally Blonde (2001)

One night, Warner invites Elle to an expensive restaurant for a special dinner, an indication that he is going to propose to her. What Elle does not expect is that instead of proposing to her, Warner breaks up with her.

Warner: God, you're so wonderful.

Elle: Thank you.

Warner: One of the reasons I wanted to come here tonight was ... to discuss our future.

Elle: And I am fully amenable ⁽³⁾ to that discussion.

Warner: Good. You know how we've been having all kinds of fun lately?

Elle: Yeah.

Warner: Well, Harvard is gonna be different. Law school is a completely different world, and I need to be serious.

Elle: Of course.

Warner: My family expects a lot from me.

Elle: Right.

Warner: I expect a lot from me. I plan on running for office ⁽⁴⁾ someday.

Elle: I fully support that. You know that, right?

Warner: Absolutely. But the thing is ... if I'm going to be a senator by the time I'm thirty, I need to stop dicking around ⁽⁵⁾.

Elle: Warner, I completely agree.

Warner: That's why I think it's time for us ... Elle, pooh bear.

Elle: Yes. (Expecting

his proposal in excitement) I do.

Warner: I think we should break up.

Elle: What!?

Warner: I've been thinking, and it's the right thing to do.

Elle: You're breaking up with me? I thought you were proposing.

Warner: Proposing? Elle, if I'm going to be a senator, I need to marry a Jackie, not a Marilyn.

Elle: You're breaking up with me because I'm too blonde?

One day, Law Professor Callahan calls Elle in. He praises Elle for her contribution on the case before implying that she could become an associate in his firm on the condition that she goes to bed with him. Elle is shocked and decides to quit the case. She even wants to quit law school.

Callahan: Sit down.

Elle: Is everything okay?

Callahan: You followed your intuition today and you were right on target. I should've listened.

Elle: (stunned) Thank you.

Callahan: I'm impressed that you took the initiative to go there and get it. That's what makes

a good lawyer. And on

top of that, you

gained the cli-

ent's trust and

kept it. That's

what makes

a great lawyer. You're smart, Elle. Smarter than most of the guys I have on my payroll.

Elle: Wow. That means so much to me to hear you say that.

Callahan: I think it's time to discuss your career path. Have you thought about where you might be a summer associate?

Elle: Not really. I know how competitive it all is -

Callahan: You know what competition is really about, don't you?

(Eager for his knowledge, Elle is on the edge of her seat. He leans in.)

Callahan: It's about ferocity, carnage ⁽⁶⁾. Balancing human intelligence with animal diligence. Knowing exactly what you want and how far you'll go to get it. How far will Elle go?

(As he says the last sentence, he slides his hand up her body. Elle stares at Callahan in horror, then grabs his hand - stopping its journey upward.)

Elle: You're hitting on ⁽⁷⁾ me?

Callahan: You're a beautiful girl, Elle.

Elle: So everything you just said -?

Callahan: I'm a man who knows what I want.

(Elle rises, stung. She stares at him for a beat.)

Elle: And I'm a law student who's finally realized her professor is a pathetic asshole ⁽⁸⁾.

(She walks out.)

Callahan: (calling out) Too bad. I thought you were a law student who wanted to be a lawyer.

(Elle stomps out of the elevator, as Emmett, one of Callahan's employees gets in.)

Emmett: (smiling) Hey -

Elle: I'm quitting.

Emmett: Whoa - Why?

Elle: Law school was a mistake. Getting this internship was a mistake.

Emmett: What're you talking about? You earned it.

Elle: I didn't earn anything. I got this internship because Callahan liked the way I looked, which he made clear tonight when he tried to feel me up ⁽⁹⁾.

Emmett: So now you're -?

Elle: Going back to LA. Maybe I can fulfill my destiny as a useless bimbo and join the Swedish Bikini Team. No more navy blue suits. No more panty-hose ⁽¹⁰⁾. No more trying to be something I'm not.

Emmett: What if you're trying to be something you are? The hell with Callahan. Stay.

Elle: Thanks for not treating me the way everyone else here does. Call me if you're ever in California.

(Elle sits in front of her friend Paulette, dejected. Not even bothering with a manicure.)

Paulette: (upset) You can't go home!

Elle: What's the point of ⁽¹¹⁾ staying? All people see when they look at me is blonde hair and big boobs. No one's ever going to take me seriously. The people at law school don't, Warner doesn't - I don't even think my parents take me seriously. They wanted me to

grow up and become a Victoria's Secret ⁽¹²⁾ model who marries a rock star. Now, for the first time, it seemed like someone expected me to do something better with my life than wear underwear for a living. But I was kidding myself - Callahan didn't see me as a lawyer. He saw me as a piece of ass.

Elle stays in law school and after three years of hard work, graduates with honors. She is chosen to make a speech at the graduation ceremony.

Host: Ladies and gentlemen ... I present the graduates of Harvard Law School ... Class of 2004. I am personally very honored to introduce this year's class-elected speaker. After getting off to ⁽¹³⁾ a quite interesting start here at Harvard, she graduates today with an invitation to join one of Boston's most prestigious law firms. I'm sure we are going to see great things from her. Ladies and gentlemen, Elle Woods.

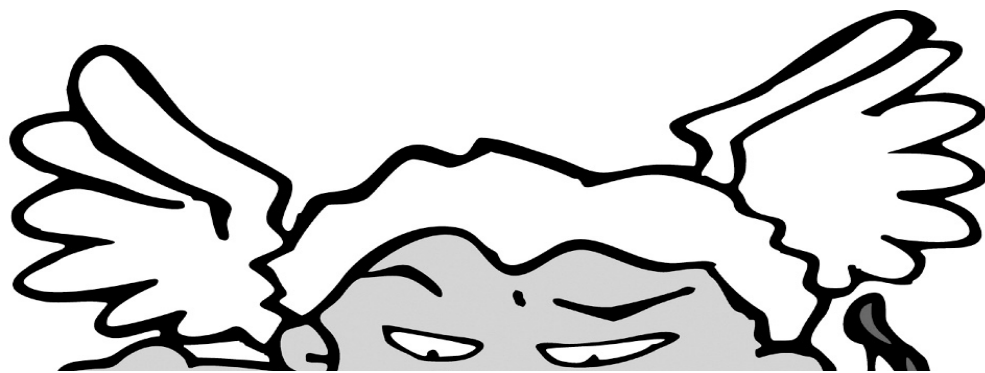
Elle: On our very first day at Harvard, a very wise professor quoted Aristotle, "The law is reason free from passion." Well, no offense to Aristotle, but in my three years at Harvard, I have come to find that passion is a key ingredient to the study and practice of law and of life. It is with passion, courage of conviction ⁽¹⁴⁾ and strong sense of self that we take our next steps into the world. Remembering that first impressions are not always correct. You must always have faith in people and most importantly, you must always have faith in yourself. Congratulations, Class of 2004. We did it!

Vocabulary

- blonde (or blond):** a woman or girl with light colored, usually yellowish hair.
- dump:** to get rid of irresponsibly.
- amenable:** ready to be guided or influenced (by).
- run for office:** to become a candidate (a person trying to get elected in an election).
- dick around:** to spend time idly; fool around or to be sexually promiscuous.
- carnage:** the killing and wounding of large numbers of people or animals.
- hitting on:** (Slang) to pay unsolicited and usually unwanted sexual attention to.
- asshole:** (Vulgar Slang) a thoroughly contemptible, detestable person.
- feel somebody up:** to touch sexually, usually without permission.
- Panty-hose:** a woman's one-piece undergarment consisting of underpants and stretchable stockings.
- What's the point of:** What's the purpose and benefit(s) of.
- Victoria's Secret:** a US underwear company known for its sexy lingerie.
- getting off to:** to make or have a start.
- conviction:** very firm and sincere belief.

(By Han Manman)





Chinglish story

This column is drawn from amusing daily Chinglish mistakes. If you have any comical experiences to share, send them to Shirley at Shirley_chen@ynet.com.

I'm a 'greenbird'

By Zhao Hongyi

Nearly all Chinese who speak English are guilty of Chinglish, much like 'Singlish' in Singapore, 'Spanglish' in Spanish communities, 'Thaiglish' in Thailand and 'Hinglish' in India.

Days ago, I was talking to an American who just arrived in Beijing and was looking for a residence. I recommended some apartments to him and told him the cost for each.

The guy was clearly grateful. "You're really helpful," he said.

"No, no!" I shook my head, "I'm only a green bird (*cainiao*)."

"What? You are a bird?" The guy looked puzzled.

"I mean ... I know little about this," I wanted to be modest. "I'm a vegetable bird," I tried again.

The guy became even more confused.

"I mean, I'm not an expert in the real estate market and know little about it!" I almost shouted.

Cainiao is a mystery not only to

foreigners. It's a phrase unfamiliar to most Beijingers, and a majority of the 1.3 billion Chinese mainlanders, because it originated in Taiwan. It refers to people who have little knowledge within a certain field. For example; "I'm a *cainiao* at computer games" means "I have little knowledge about computer games."

In English, the word to use would be 'greenhorn,' instead of the word-for-word translation 'greenbird.' However, at least, I got the first part right.

One step from Chinglish

Below are word-pairs so similar, they often confuse non-native English speakers. Some mistakes have even led to Chinglish jokes.

By Chen Shasha

1. Dining / Dinning

'Dinning' (pronounced like winning) is a jumble of loud, usually discordant sounds. 'Dining,' on the other hand, is what people do when they go out to eat.

2. Desert / Dessert

'Desert' is a place with no water, while 'dessert' is something you eat at the end of a meal. To help you remember the number of letter 's' for each word, think of 'sand,' for desert and 'strawberry shortcake' for dessert.

3. Planed / Planned

'Planed' is a wooden surface that has been smoothed and leveled with a plane, a carpenter's tool. 'Planned' is when you arrange or organize something.

4. Flash / Flasher

Putting '-er' at the end of a noun does not always give expected results. Flash means "a sudden, quick, bright light" or "sudden, violent and short." From these definitions sprang up the Chinglish 'flasher' to describe a group of people who like to help or joke with others, then will quickly run away. Unfortunately, 'flasher' in English refers to a person who habitually and unexpectedly shows his or sexual parts to strangers.

Blacklist

Beijing Today has come up with Blacklist, a new column of words or phrases commonly misused by Chinese. If you're planning to be an English teacher, reporter or employee of a multinational company, then this page is your new best friend. Watch out for it each week.

By Chen Shasha

1. 'Fragrance Hills'

Do you mean Xiangshan? Remember, the correct English translation of this famous park in north Beijing is "Fragrant Hills."

2. 'Locate'

Things don't 'locate,' they are 'located' somewhere. "The house locates at Barley Street" is wrong. The correct sentence is, "The house is located on Barley Street."

3. 'Staff'

Do not use "a staff said ..." It sounds awkward. Instead, use "a member of the staff said ..."

Same thing with 'audience.' The word refers to a crowd of people watching a show. The individual is not an 'audience,' but an 'audience member' - a person within the wider collective.

4. 'Cute'

A direct translation of Chinese words into English does

not always work. 'Cute' is 'Ke'ai' in Chinese, so when people want to describe a certain kind of food as *ke'ai*, they start saying things like, "Those dumplings are cute, white, smart ..." Are you sure you're not describing a person?

The only time 'cute' should ever be used is to describe a baby, a girl or small animal.

5. Verbs to begin a sentence

A common mistake is to open a sentence with a verb, without adding a prefix. This is a classic Chinglish sentence: "Worked as teacher, Xu Jing, who quit his job at a local bank in 2001, felt quite lucky."

You can fix the verb by changing it to 'working.' However, if you really want to make the sentence sound good, the structure must be changed. You can say, "Xu Jing, who quit his bank job in 2001, feels lucky to be working as a teacher."



What kind of bird am I?

CFP Photo

Chinglish on the way

This column aims to identify chinglish in public areas. If you see any chinglish signs, please take a picture and send them to Shirley_chen@ynet.com with your name and address.

Engine Room is Serious Place



By Derrick Sobodash

Once again, we have a chance to witness the beauty, or horror, of what happens when you translate things far too literally.

Yes, the Chinese on this sign directly says 'Engine Room Serious Place,' but that doesn't make it a good translation. At least they did a good job by adding 'is,' but because 'place' is a countable word, you would need to write 'a serious place.'

Even then, the English does nothing to convey what the sign means. Does that mean no playing in the engine room? Do they use it to discuss geopolitical issues or hold top-secret PLA meetings? What's so serious about the engine room?

A more meaningful translation would simply be, 'CAUTION! Engine Room.'

Zhi Hong the Stabilize Prices Super City



By Derrick Sobodash

This sign looks like something from a shady, Detroit, USA pawnshop.

First off, the name is totally wrong. 'Stabilize Prices' is a very poor translation: they meant to write 'Discount.' Printing 'Super City' is problematic as it conjures horrifying images of bad 1970s ads, or at least a store staffed by sleazy salesmen who try to convince you, you really can afford a 100,000 yuan TV on your 2,500 yuan monthly salary. Please just write 'Supermarket.'

The last line is scary. 'The management' makes no sense. It's just saying what the store deals in, so that can be safely omitted. On English shop signs, it's understood when the second line is a list, it's what the store sells.

It only goes downhill from here.

'Smoke' isn't too bad, in fact, I like it because it can mean they may sell pipe tobacco or Zig-Zags for rolling 'cigarettes.' However, it should be 'Smokes.' The 'alcoholic drink' part should just be 'liquor.' There's no way to easily translate *fu shi* into English, so just write 'food.' Daily-use items are usually things like toothpaste, soap and toilet paper, so write 'toiletries.' The last part should be reduced to 'small gifts,' because 'fruit' is covered by 'food.'

To make it especially clear, you can separate everything with bullets like, 'Smokes • Liquor • Food • Toiletries • Small Gifts.'



**05/02/07
BEIJING, CHINA**
INFO: 65381691 / 13901087774

04/02/07
MIAMI, FLORIDA





FREE ADMISSION | FREE BREAKFAST | FREE GIFT | ENGLISH BROADCAST

Friday, January 26

Exhibition Open Door



Group exhibition featuring Deng Yifu, Hu Shengping, Liang Yue, Kim Vernon, Pam See, Sun Guojuan, Tamae Aki-moto and Zhou Jun.

Where: Red Gate Gallery (opposite White Space), No 2

Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang
When: Tue-Sun 11am-6pm,
until February 11
Admission: Free
Tel: 6438 1005

Movie L'ombrellone (Weekend Wives)

The film centers on a vacationing Roman engineer, who prefers a little peace and quiet. To his dismay, his wife insists on dragging him from party to party.

At one of these Felliniesque get-togethers, he notices his wife enjoying the attentions of a charming playboy. It's all quite innocent, but the usual complications and misunderstandings ensue.

Il Cuore Altrove (The Heart is Elsewhere)

It is a romantic drama focusing on Nello, a college humanities teacher. His parents are well-to-do tailors working for the Pope, and they don't approve of Nello's line of work.

At their urging, Nello moves



to Bologna where he meets and falls in love with Angela, a blind local girl. However, their relationship isn't a simple one. Her parents don't believe a simple teacher is worthy of their daughter, his parents protest because she is blind and her ex-boyfriend may not be completely out of the picture. Adding one more twist is a doctor who might be able to restore Angela's sight, making Nello wonder if she'll still feel for him if she isn't blind.

Where: China Film Archives,
No 3 Wenhuiyuan Lu, Xiaoxitian, Haidian

When: 6pm
Admission: 40 yuan
Tel: 6225 0423; 8601 6860

Saturday, January 27

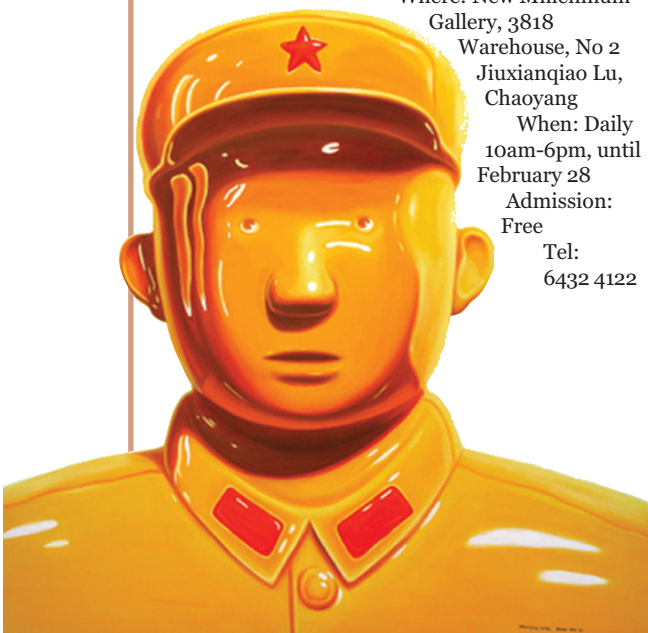


Exhibition New Recount – Oil Painting Joint Exhibition

Group exhibition featuring professional artists Hong Haochang, Wang Chuyu, Shen Jindong, ZengGang, Zi Juanyong and ZhangZhen.

Where: New Millennium
Gallery, 3818
Warehouse, No 2
Jiuxianqiao Lu,
Chaoyang
When: Daily
10am-6pm, until
February 28
Admission:
Free

Tel:
6432 4122



Movie Le Amiche (The Girl Friends)



Roman couturier Clelia leaves the big city to work at a boutique in Turin. She moves into a hotel and makes several new friends, but is soon drawn into their extremely unpleasant lives.

She enters a doomed relationship with a poor architect's assistant, sees her new best friend Rosetta commit suicide after being jilted by her married lover and is eventually fired from her new job when her hysteria over Rosetta's death interferes with her work. The film is based on a 1949 article published in *La Bella Estate*.

L'ultimo Bacio (The Last Kiss)

Parenthood stirs up a wealth of emotions in this Italian drama. Carlo and Giulia are a couple in their late twenties who realize they've crossed the final threshold into adulthood when Giulia discovers she is going to have a baby.

Even though Carlo has already settled down, he sees parenthood as the first step toward becoming the sort of middle-class suburbanite he's never respected, and he's not happy about it. Carlo's friends are also having mixed feelings about the onset of maturity.

Where: China Film
Archives, No 3 Wenhuiyuan
Lu, Xiaoxitian, Haidian
When: 1pm
Admission: 40 yuan
Tel: 6225 0423; 8601 6860



Sunday, January 28

Exhibition Preview of Art Works for Miart, Italy



Artist Village gallery has been invited to join the Miart art fair this year (March 30-April 2). A preview exhibi-

tion is being held to give people in China a chance to see what works will be shown in Italy.

Where: Artist Village Gallery, No 1 north of Renzhuang, Songzhuang, Tongzhou

When: Call for appointment, until February 25
Admission: 15 yuan
Tel: 6959 8343

Movie C'era Una Volta (More Than A Miracle)

A handsome prince searches for love in this whimsical fairytale. The Queen Mother has pledged Prince Ramon to an arranged mar-



riage, but he balks at the idea of marrying a woman he doesn't love. Soon Ramon finds himself awestruck by the beautiful servant girl Isabella.

La Stanza del Figlio (The Son's Room)

A family struggles to go on after a devastating loss in this deeply emotional drama.

Giovanni is a psychiatrist with a successful practice in a small community near the ocean. He has a warm relationship with his wife, Paola, and they have a pair of well-adjusted teenage kids, Andrea and Irene. However, the family's calm is shattered when Andrea is unexpectedly killed in an accident.

Where: China Film
Archives, No 3 Wenhuiyuan Lu,
Xiaoxitian, Haidian
When: 6pm
Admission: 30 yuan
Tel: 6225 0423;
8601 6860

Stage in February

Music

Golden Songs of Teresa Teng Symphony Concert

Who: China Broadcasting
Symphony Orchestra

Where: Zhongshan Music
Hall, inside Zhongshan Park,
Dongcheng

When: 7:30pm, February 14
Admission: 80-980 yuan

Spring Festival Symphony Concert

Who: Russian Symphony
Orchestra

Where: Poly Theater, No 14
Dongzhimen Nan Lu, Dongcheng

When: 7:30pm, February 18
Admission: 50-1,000 yuan

2007 Spring Concert

Who: China National Opera

Where: Great Hall of the
People, west side of Tiananmen
Square, Xicheng

When: 7:30pm, February 9
Admission: 100-1,280 yuan

Mantovani Orchestra Pop Concert

Who: The Mantovani
Orchestra (Italy)

Where: Great Hall of the
People, west side of Tiananmen
Square, Xicheng

When: 7:30pm, February 7
Admission: 180-1,680 yuan

Dance

Swan Lake

Who: Russian National Ballet
Theatre and Russian Symphony
Orchestra

Where: Poly Theater, No 14
Dongzhimen Nan Lu, Dongcheng

When: 7:30pm,
February 12-13
Admission: 80-1,280 yuan

Sleeping Beauty

Who: Russian National Ballet
Theatre and Russian Symphony
Orchestra

Where: Poly Theater, No 14
Dongzhimen Nan Lu, Dongcheng

When: 7:30pm,
February 14-15
Admission: 80-1,280 yuan

British Modern Dance

Who: Henry Oguike Dance
Company (UK)

Where: Tianqiao Theatre, No
30 Beiwei Lu, Xuanwu

When: 7:30pm,
February 14-15
Admission: 80-800 yuan

Don Quixote

Who: Russian National Ballet
Theatre and Russian Symphony
Orchestra

Where: Poly Theater, No 14
Dongzhimen Nan Lu, Dongcheng

When: 7:30pm, February 19
Admission: 80-1,280 yuan

Giselle

Who: Russian National Ballet
Theatre and Russian Symphony
Orchestra

Where: Poly Theater, No 14
Dongzhimen Nan Lu, Dongcheng

When: 7:30pm,
February 20-21
Admission: 80-1,280 yuan

(By Qiu Jiaoning)